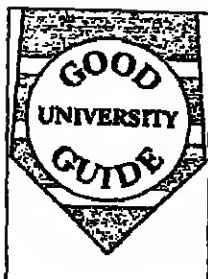


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ON
TUESDAY

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THE TIMES

No. 64,641

TUESDAY MAY 11 1993

45p

Major calls for rethink over testing in schools

The Government is seeking a compromise over school testing that will unite parents and isolate the teaching unions who are opposing tests

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND PETER RIDDELL

JOHN Major is examining compromise proposals on school tests to win over parents and moderate teachers in the wake of the Conservative drubbing at the polls last Thursday.

This year's tests, which face a boycott from teachers, may be downgraded. Ministers hope this will not halt the momentum of the education reforms.

The move follows a Downing Street discussion yesterday between Mr Major and party advisers on how to respond to the worries of voters. A Downing Street ad-

viser said: "We have clearly got to make changes. We have to carry the parents with us."

John Patten, the education secretary, said yesterday that the government would press ahead with testing despite newspaper surveys showing that parents support the boycott. "If we were to bring these reforms juddering to a halt now, I believe we will find them extremely difficult to get back on the road again," he said.

Despite his remarks, Downing Street insiders made plain that compromise plans were being examined with the aim of isolating the teaching unions, which are strongly opposed to the tests, and retrieving the support of parents, governors and head

teachers, without whom the government would find it difficult to proceed. One option being studied is to make this year's tests consultative, with the aim of assisting Sir Ronald Dearing in his review of the national curriculum. The indication of a shift on one of the thorniest issues facing the government came as it came under renewed criticism from some Tory MPs for its Budget plans to impose VAT on fuel bills.

As senior ministers tried to control the recriminations and disarray in the Tory party since the shire counties and Newbury by-election polls, a succession of MPs rose during a Commons debate on the plans to demand help for poorer pensioners to offset the VAT rises. At least one Tory MP, William Powell, was planning to vote against the government in last night's division.

As Tory MPs returned to Westminster after an uncomfortable weekend in their constituencies, there was a growing clamour for the prime minister to carry out an early summer reshuffle involving the removal of Norman Lamont as Chancellor. With ministers now recognising that they made a serious misjudgment in triumphantly proclaiming the end of the recession before people began to feel the benefits, Mr Major will tell Scottish Tories on Friday that the government understands the need to broaden and strengthen the recovery and to respond to voters' worries, particularly on law and order and cutting government red tape on business.

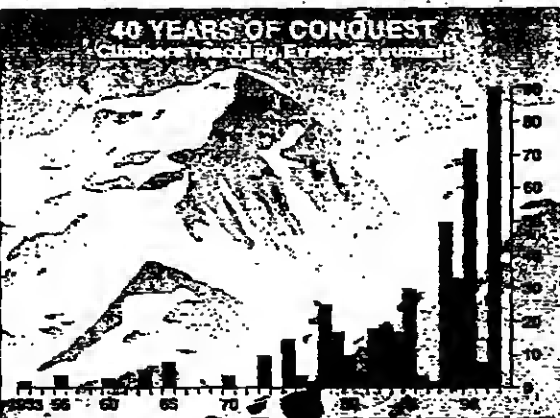
Mr Major yesterday held a brief inquest with Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory party chairman, over Thursday's poll setbacks. Sir Norman made plain there was no question of an immediate reshuffle but government sources disclosed that the option of wider than expected changes in July, including in the cabinet, was a live one.

He said: "We did not talk about a change of policies or personnel. We are not in the business of instant policy and instant reactions." Taking a sideswipe at the Tory Euro-rebels, he said: "It has not helped that the party has been seen to be disunited in the Commons."

Backbench reaction, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 8
Leading article and Letters, page 15



Jitters about government reaction, left Sterling at its lowest level since early April, losing nearly four cents against the dollar and more than two pence against the German mark despite more encouraging economic statistics pointing to an ideal combination of recovery with low inflation. Page 21



Picking her moment: Rebecca Stephens, climbing Everest, was delayed yesterday to aid an exhausted colleague

By NICHOLAS WATT

REBECCA Stephens, attempting to become the first British woman to climb Everest, delayed her ascent on the mountain's final 3,000ft last night to care for a team-mate whose condition deteriorated after he reached the summit without oxygen supplies.

Rebecca Stephens and her colleague John Barry helped an exhausted Harry Taylor down the mountain after he returned to the expedition's fourth camp at 26,000ft, where they were huddled in

hurricane-force winds. Karen Paterson, a spokeswoman for the expedition, said: "Harry has not had any oxygen supplies for three nights and is not in great shape. They are taking him down to the expedition's third camp at 24,500ft where other team members will look after him." The two were then planning to continue their climb tonight.

Everest yesterday experienced its busiest day when a record 37 climbers from all over the world reached the summit. The mountaineers, from seven different expeditions, beat the previous record of

32 set last May. But Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine, who led the 1953 British expedition, said that so many climbers were spoiling the mountain. "The record of 37 climbers is not one to be proud of," he said. "They take away from the mystique, the mystery and magic of Everest. The mountain is an appalling sight with all the litter left by climbers. It is also horrifying that human bodies are left there."

Lone sailor's triumph, page 2
Leading article, page 15

UK and France under US fire for delays over Bosnia

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND ROSEMARY RIGHTER

BRITAIN and France came under attack from both the United States and Nato yesterday for their unwillingness to take decisive military action over Bosnia.

In a continuing spate of unfavourable comment in the American press, one commentator wrote that next time Washington's assistance was required in another Falklands-type situation, the United States might take months to make up its mind.

Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, speaking in Venice, referred with some exasperation to the "successive delays" over Bosnia, and the lack of political will. He said that this generation had an opportunity to assume our responsibilities. He said a classic peacekeeping mandate for Nato would be wholly inadequate. Nato, he said, would need a mandate "going beyond Unprofor [the United Nations protection force]."

In a speech to the International Press Institute's annual assembly yesterday, he said: "I told Dr Boutros Ghali [the UN secretary-general] two weeks ago that Nato cannot help if it believes the UN mandate is inadequate. If Nato has to implement the Vance-Owen plan, we can only do it efficiently if we have unified command and the necessary rules of engagement." Asked if this meant the capacity to enforce peace, he said that it must include powers of enforcement. "I simply cannot imagine Nato forces being confronted by a few guerrillas and turning back. That means the mandate to use force if

parties will not abide by the peace agreement."

The White House admitted yesterday that its plans for intervention to end the conflict were "in a holding period" as President Clinton pondered a question that no US president has had to face in 45 years: what should America do when European allies refuse to follow its lead?

"We don't expect any action in the immediate future," said Dee Dee Myers, the White House spokeswoman. Privately, administration officials contemptuously accused Europeans of seizing any excuse to



Clinton: pondering his allies' response

procrastinate over the Bosnian conflict, a charge British sources angrily dismissed as "quite insulting."

William Safire of *The New York Times* said Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, had shown himself "a timid noodle of a persuader. He did not dare point out to Bonn and Paris that it would passage the pullout of US from Europe to London that in the next Falklands-type episode we'll need a few months to think things over."

Hurd pressure and Belgrade blacklist, page 11
Rosemary Righter, page 14

The Independent faces bid

By BRIAN MACARTHUR
AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

URGENT moves to appoint a new chairman of Newspaper Publishing, owners of *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday*, are being made as *El Pais* and *La Repubblica*, the Spanish and Italian newspaper groups, prepare to mount a takeover bid. City sources reported last night.

The continental papers have formally indicated that they each wish to increase their individual stakes in Newspaper Publishing from 18.6 per cent to 25 per cent, a proposal made with the rider that a British institution should take another 25 per cent. They are increasingly anxious about the erosion in the value of their shares, which were bought at £5 in 1990 at a total cost of £21 million. Suspicions that the conti-



mental shareholders may be acting in concert were aroused at the weekend when it was disclosed that Cerniti, an Italian printing company which supplies machinery to *La Repubblica*, had bought a 2.4 per cent stake from John Talbot, the Arthur Andersen administrator of Robert Maxwell's private interests. Staff at *The Independent* believe that the £1.90 per share paid by Cerniti substantially undervalues Newspaper Publishing, which has traded profitably during the past year. The post of chairman of Newspaper Publishing is tem-

porarily vacant after the sudden resignation last week of Sir Ralf Dahrendorf, warden of St Anthony's College, Oxford. Sir Ralf said he had not approved of *The Independent's* bid to buy the *Observer* and effectively to close it down.

Staff at *The Independent* are becoming increasingly irritated by the predatory ambitions of the Italians and the Spanish. The continentals should either launch a full takeover bid paying a realistic value for the shares or withdraw, they say.

That irritation is another reason why they are seeking to appoint a strong chairman who understands the City and who will ensure fair play for all shareholders, including the many staff with shares or share options. Names being canvassed include all three non-executive directors, among them Ian Hay Davison.

Orkney suspends its social services chief

By RAY CLANCY

PAUL Lee, the director of social work for the Orkney Islands, was suspended yesterday over his role in the child sex abuse scandal that led to the removal of nine children from their homes in dawn raids in February 1991.

The decision by Orkney Islands Council to suspend him on full pay pending disciplinary action is its first admission that errors of judgment were made during the affair, which was the subject of a judicial enquiry by Lord Clyde last year. The move was last night hailed as a positive step towards reconciliation between the people of South Ronaldsay and the council, but the parents involved said it was not enough. The council's decision could none the less open the floodgates for com-

pensation claims currently being considered by some of the parents.

A temporary director from outside Orkney is to be appointed to take over from Mr Lee. Whoever does so will have to take action on the recommendations in the just published internal council report on the affair which includes an admission that a "bad mistake" was made.

Mr Lee, 44, was not available for comment last night. He no longer lives on the island and has been commuting weekly from the mainland for some time.

Continued on page 2, col 1

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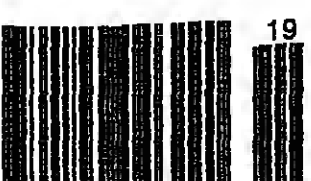
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Tory MPs urge measures to win back alienated voters

By Nicholas Wood
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS were being offered a range of miracle cures yesterday as MPs conducted their own inquest into the government's humiliation in last week's elections. Scrapping school tests this summer, lifting the threat of VAT on domestic fuel bills and sidelining British Rail privatisation all suggested.

But after a weekend in their constituencies counting the corpses after the county council polls and recoiling from the shock of Newbury, most Tory MPs recognise that the government will not repair its tattered reputation with a couple of quick fixes.

Most MPs appeared yesterday to

be in agreement with Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, who gave a warning that abandoning policies wholesale would destroy the government's winning credibility. Nevertheless, they do want some concessions to the public mood, not least in policies on education, crime, and privatisation.

Education: John Patten, the education secretary, is widely blamed by Conservative MPs for not anticipating the scale of hostility to classroom tests, for not moving faster to make changes and concessions and for not doing more to persuade parents, moderate teachers and the media of the merits of the reform.

Many backbenchers, accept that Mr Patten has staked too much of his personal credibility on saying that the

tests should go ahead for him to back down now. But they believe he could soften the focus, making it clear that he will not attempt to put teachers under an indisputable legal duty to carry them out or penalise those who refuse. The education secretary could also expedite the independent review of the testing system and treat this year's inevitably patchy set of results as no more than a contribution to the main business of sorting out the mess.

Law and Order: Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, needs to respond to vociferous demands from the Conservative grass-roots for the government to get tough on crime and criminals.

The 1991 Criminal Justice Act, with its lottery of penalties for minor

offences and widely resented curbs on the powers of judges to sentence offenders in the light of their previous convictions, will be revised. Persistent teenage offenders will also face custodial sentences.

Privatisation: Few Conservatives are calling for the railway privatisation bill, which is now before the Commons, to be scrapped, but many MPs believe that its implementation should be slowed down. One way to do this would be for the government to franchise out a few lines initially and wait until there is some solid evidence of success before going further. John MacGregor, the transport secretary, is under pressure to do more to allay public fears that the upheaval will mean higher fares and fewer trains.

Post Office privatisation is also causing concern among Tory backbenchers, not least because of the danger it presents to the national network of sub-post offices, vital in many rural areas. Only hardline free-marketisers will protest if, as expected, the measure fails to make the next Queen's speech.

Social security: Raising the pension age for women to 65, which would save taxpayers £3 billion in the long run, is seen as unpopular but probably necessary. Most Conservative MPs will be relieved if the government postpones the legislative day of reckoning until 1994/95, when it plans to bring forward a big pensions bill that would also close the legal loopholes that were exposed by the Maxwell scandal.

Backbenchers tell Major that he must sack Lamont

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

TORY backbenchers sent a clear message to John Major yesterday that he should remove his Chancellor in a summer cabinet reshuffle if he is to restore the political authority of both himself and the government.

On their return to Westminster following last Thursday's disastrous election results, MPs called for clear leadership, party unity and the removal of Norman Lamont this July as a means of winning back public support. Some MPs signalled that Mr Major's own position as party leader was in jeopardy and could be challenged over the next 12 months.

Sir Peter Tapsell, MP for Lindsey East, said: "There is no doubt that the government is extremely unpopular and something has got to be done. I think a cabinet reshuffle in July is almost certain."

Sir Peter said that if things were no better in a year's time he was sure Mr Major would step down if he thought it was in the national interest to do so, without the need for a challenge to his leadership.

One junior minister said it was necessary for Mr Lamont to go from both the Treasury and the government. "In my patch, the premature triumphalism from the Treasury about the end of the recession has gone down like a lead balloon," he said. "They wanted some humility and Norman is not the man to give them that. His judgment has been shown to be completely away - he cannot even handle the good news."

Some Tory MPs blamed the recession for the size of the defeat while others pointed to the government's broken pledges on VAT and a damaging split within the party over Maastricht.

John Watts, chairman of the Commons Treasury and Civil Service select committee, said: "Clearly we need to overcome this lack of unity because of the running sores on Maastricht. Whenever parties are not uni-

ted, the electorate loses confidence."

One of the new Tory intake said: "John Major was backed as leader by the right of the party, but he is really centre-left. He should sell his own thoughts more and get back to caring Conservatism."

MPs were divided on whether the government should change direction immediately and risk being accused of panic, or whether it should go ahead with unpopular measures such as the tests for 14-year-olds.

Peter Viggers, the MP for Gosport, said some people believed that with Mr Major they would get Thatcherism without the tears. "My view is that we will need to be tougher to achieve our principal objective of a sound and balanced budget."

But much of the blame for Thursday's defeat was directed at Mr Lamont. A parliamentary private secretary to a cabinet minister said the government would get no credit for the end of the recession until the Chancellor went. "As long as he is there people won't believe the recession is over," he said.

Patrick Nicholson, the MP for Teignbridge, described Mr Lamont's "no regrets" comment as the Tory version of Neil Kinnock's triumphalist Sheffield pre-election rally. "There are a great many people who have lost their jobs or lost their houses, for whom I feel desperately sorry. They are profoundly unhappy about cabinet ministers who do not weigh the human implications of an economic policy," he said.

Some MPs rallied round Mr Lamont, claiming he should not be made a scapegoat. Sir Michael Crylls, MP for North West Surrey, said voters' treatment of the Conservatives amounted to "kicking the cat" to punish them for their hardships.

Leading article, page 15
Letters, page 15



In the spotlight: John Patten leaves a TV studio in London yesterday. Pressure is mounting for a climbdown

Advisers rally round isolated Patten

By Ben Preston
EDUCATION REPORTER

VITAL evidence of standards in the nation's schools will be lost if this summer's classroom tests are disrupted, two senior government advisers said yesterday.

Amid mounting pressure to suspend the tests for seven, eleven and fourteen-year-olds, Sir Ron Dearing said his review of testing and assessment would be helped if teachers did not boycott the tests.

The chairman-designate of the School Curriculum and Assessment Council said there was widespread agreement

that parents needed to know how their children were performing against national standards.

Professor Stewart Sutherland, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, told a separate London news conference that it was important to have the evidence provided by a good testing system to assess the progress of the education system.

The new Office of Standards in Education had already published a report concluding that tests for seven-year-olds were helping to raise standards in primary schools, he said.

The interventions provided

some comfort for John Patten, the education secretary, after he was left isolated by two opinion polls indicating substantial parental support for the boycott by two teaching unions. But both advisers stopped short of making a direct appeal for teachers to work normally.

The largest union, the National Union of Teachers, is likely to add to the pressure for a government climbdown when it announces the result of its ballot on Thursday. Members are expected to vote overwhelmingly in favour of industrial action.

Schools face inspection by the "same old faces wearing

different hats" critics claimed yesterday after it emerged that 60 per cent of teachers under the new privatised system were from local councils.

The Office for Standards in Education was caught in the crossfire as right and left-wing opponents attacked figures showing more than half of the first 394 schools to be inspected failed to attract more than one teacher.

They said the findings cast doubt on the government's intention of breaking councils' hold over inspection by introducing competition between free-range teachers.

Tests compromise, page 1

Director is suspended in Orkney

Continued from page 1

goat and that other key personnel within the social work department should also be suspended.

The decision to suspend Mr Lee on full pay came after councillors spent six hours discussing the internal report drawn up by a committee of five councillors appointed to examine the recommendations made by Lord Clyde. Although the meeting was in private, most of the report was afterwards made public, including details of the extent of the fear and revulsion that arose after the children, aged between eight and 15, were taken from their homes by police and social workers. The report was accepted by the council, which will now act on its recommendations. These include calling an immediate public meeting to help heal wounds.

James Moar, chairman of the report committee, said 45 points made by Lord Clyde led to the decision to recommend that Mr Lee be disciplined. "We feel that Mr Lee was the leader. As captain of the ship he has to take responsibilities," he said.

The council will now consider whether or not Mr Lee should be sacked. Mr Moar said that the step could not be ruled out. "It is the only way that we can see to get some reconciliation in our community," he added.

Bathtub sailor beats Atlantic

AN ARTS teacher from Liverpool came ashore in Puerto Rico yesterday after crossing the Atlantic in a boat the size of a bathtub.

Tom McNally's voyage in the *Vera Hugh*, *Pride of Merseyside*, named after his parents, took three months. He is 5ft 11in tall while his craft is 5ft 4in long. The *Vera Hugh* is believed to be the smallest boat to have crossed any of the world's oceans.

He said last night as he celebrated with a beer and a hamburger: "I'm still very wobbly, but otherwise I feel fine. It wasn't like sailing - it was like an endurance test. You can't straighten out from one week to the next. I kept telling myself, 'It's only for three months', and that kept me going."

Mr McNally, 50, from Kensington, Liverpool, set sail from Sagres on the southwestern tip of Portugal but collided with a ferry near Madeira and had to put in for repairs. He left again on February 13 but from then his parents and fiancée, Edna Kent, 40, from Dovecot, Liverpool, had no word until coastguards made contact on Sunday night.

Miss Kent said: "I was panicking and had just about given up hope. I can't believe it. Now he's a world record holder."

Trouble with his generator had forced Mr McNally to keep radio silence. When he started to use the provisions he had stowed away, he discovered that water had seeped in



Last stop: McNally leaving Madeira in February

and ruined 40 per cent of them.

"Fortunately, a slow-moving boat like mine attracts a lot of fish and I was able to spear some over the side and eat them raw. I soaked rice in sea water for a few days to go soft. It tasted awful but it keeps you alive. I've lost a bit of weight. I was always skinny but I'm like a rake now!"

He added: "I've just had a hamburger and a Budweiser and it was absolute heaven - it was like Christmas."

The *Vera Hugh* was becalmed for 18 days during his voyage and survived several storms. "Being pushed backwards was the frustrating part. I was pushed backwards for seven days and you have to

work just as hard sailing her. Then I had to make up the distance I had lost and it took me three weeks to cover one week's journey."

"Now I've made it, to be honest it feels like an anti-climax. It's because you are so hyped up in the day-by-day doing of it, but once you stop and step ashore the challenge has gone."

But Mr McNally is not finished yet. Although he has officially completed the ocean crossing, he plans to make some repairs to his boat and sail to Florida, where Miss Kent will meet him.

"I missed Edna. We are going to get married, and I missed her awfully - I'm in love with her still," he said.

MoD fails to provide arms-to-Iraq papers

By Michael Dynes, Whitehall Correspondent

KEY defence ministry documents have not been handed over to Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair, it was disclosed yesterday.

The confidential documents, known as Table X, were drawn up by defence officials and contain detailed lists of the security classifications of countries and types of defence equipment which are used by civil servants when deciding whether to approve arms exports.

The ministry's failure to make these documents available to Lord Justice Scott, six months into the judicial enquiry, will be seen by critics as evidence that Whitehall departments are not co-operating fully with the investigation.

Responding to the disclosure, Lord Justice Scott's office said that he was "continuing to ask for documents" and was confident that he had enough documents to ensure that everything of importance "would come out in the long term".

The existence of Table X came to light during evidence given to the enquiry by Christopher Sandars, a former assistant under-secretary of state at the defence ministry. Mr Sandars said ministers and officials had approved sales of defence-related equipment to Iraq up to the mid-1980s, despite the government's poli-

cy of impartiality towards Iran and Iraq. Government policy was "to remain impartial" in the conflict and not supply lethal equipment to either side, Mr Sandars said. But impartial meant that the government should not take sides. It did not mean that "deliveries of equipment should be balanced", he said.

Mr Sandars agreed that between 1981 and the formation of the 1985 Howe guidelines governing export sales, government policy had been to exploit Iraq's promising market for arms exports. In implementing that policy, "lethal items were interpreted in the narrowest possible sense, and neutrality as flexibly as possible".

Mr Sandars said the government's relations with Iran were bad, and it would have been wrong to supply defence equipment to Iran while this situation continued. "I admit there is an inconsistency. I don't think that it is up to me to explain it as it was ministers who took the decisions."

The new guidelines, which permitted exports of defence equipment, providing they did not "significantly enhance the capacity of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict", provided a measure of flexibility. "We didn't want to embark on a policy with a whole lot more exact definitions," he said.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Let bellowing be a lesson for you

Poor David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat victor from Newbury, entered the chamber in triumph yesterday to a just-audible cheer from six Liberals. After the pomp and circumstance of the Berkshire by-election hustings, he will find Westminster rather a come-down.

If Mr Rendel wants to hang on to Newbury, I have an instructive tale for him. His hero is no better, and no worse, than any other MP: just noisier. "MP BLASTS RIVERS BOSSES!" said a recent edition of the *Weymouth & Hatfield Times*. Pin back your ears, then, as David Evans (C, Weymouth Hatfield) prepares to blast.

Roll up your trousers, too, for our story starts underwater in Warrenton Road, N Mims, in 1928, where the Mimsbrook brook rose to flood 18 homes. Over the next 68 years it did so again and again. But nothing was done. Now, put your shoes back on and follow me to the Commons, rather before the midnight on December 10 last. The chamber is almost empty except for the minister responsible, the genial Nicholas Soames, and Mr Evans, who is on his feet.

Let me explain. Since being elected, Evans has been bullying the poor chairman of the National Rivers Authority, Lord Crickhowell, into visiting Warrenton Road himself. October 23, 1992: "It is insufficient for you to wash your hands with a wishy-washy reply... November 10: 'Yet another wishy-washy reply... November 19: 'You are not at all fair with the facts... And then the ominous: "Should I not receive an immediate response, the matter will be brought to the floor of the House with all the energy I can summon."

Those who know the bull-necked, bulldog-voiced chairman of Linton Town football club, scourge of dole scroungers and hammer of the Left (i.e. most of his own party), know that all the

energy he can summon is a lot. Soames quails. Evans rises.

"Sir! My constituents have been waiting for some action since 1928... I take you back to 1955... *Rock Around the Clock* was the best-selling single. Churchill was succeeded by Eden. 1955 was also the year when the residents of Warrenton Road...

"... 11 general elections, nine prime ministers, nothing done. Faced with the dangers of flooding, Noah spent 40 days and 40 nights building an ark. Faced with the same problem, the National Rivers Authority, finally, after 64 years, conducted a feasibility study."

"Reading the National Rivers Authority's literature, you would think this was an organisation to rival the United Nations... my constituents are not river authorities... the Right Hon Baron Crickhowell of Pont Esbaw - sounds like someone who regulates water - I have news for Lord Crickhowell... Mr Speaker, let us get a writ out and let us get this Crickhowell man off his whatsit."

Mr Deputy Speaker: "Order. The hon gentleman is not allowed to speak of members of another place in such derogatory tones."

Enough. Evans now admits that Crickhowell is proving helpful. I passed the member for Weymouth Hatfield in the corridor the other day. "News from Warrenton Road?" I enquired.

"Funny you should ask!" bellowed the man who, asked by the Chancellor last year how the government was looking from Weymouth, shouted: "F*** awful". "We're cracking it. All we need is £2 million from the ministry. We'll get it, mate!"

Newbury's David Rendel, who is an Old Etonian, might care to study the style. It works.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MacGregor defends motorway charges

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, yesterday gave a clear indication that motorway charges could be introduced within the life of this Parliament to help fund Britain's £19 billion road-building programme. However, charging motorists to enter central London was still a long way off. Mr MacGregor said that one of the measures suggested in his imminent green paper on motorway pricing was an electronic tagging device which would be "read" by sensors suspended from gantries.

"Clearly something must be done or whole sections of our motorway system will become like the M25 on a Friday night," said Mr MacGregor, who was visiting Oslo to study systems. He denied charges would mean another layer of taxation for Britain's 23 million motorists. "Those who do not wish to use the motorways will not have to pay."

Police consider strikes

Junior officers are to discuss seeking the right for police to strike, an option denied them for more than 70 years. The emergency motion at next week's annual conference of the Police Federation in Blackpool also raises the question of full trade union rights for officers. The move follows the announcement last month of a Home Office consultation paper on police discipline and employment. Police have not had trade union rights since 1919 when a strike was put down by the government.

Councillor resigns

The chairman of Birmingham City Council's social services committee announced her resignation yesterday. Najma Hafeez said her decision had nothing to do with recent disputes over child care. She wanted to devote more time to her management consultancy and to her two young sons. Her announcement was made hours after six teenagers at Oakhill House children's home in Edgbaston built barricades and pelted police with missiles.

Teenagers held, page 7

Former Liberal MP dies

Lord Ross of Newport, a former Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight, died yesterday after collapsing at a London hotel. The 66-year-old peer, right, underwent major heart surgery last year. His son, Stephen Ross, he won the title of Wight, a previous safe Tory seat, in 1974 and held it until 1987. He was created a life peer after retiring as an MP. The Tories immediately won back the island seat.



City church splits peers

The restoration of St Ethelburga's, the medieval church destroyed by the Bishopsgate bomb, was debated in Parliament when Lord Donoughue (Lab) said it should be made "a shrine symbolising our refusal to submit to the IRA barbarians". Lord Elton, a former Tory Home Office and environment minister, said the site should be sold and the proceeds "applied to the poor". Rebuilding would be "perpetrating an architectural and archaeological fraud".

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سكوتيا للسيارات

'Treatment is being rationed behind closed doors. It needs to come out in the open'

Doctors' success cuts test-tube baby costs

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of test-tube babies has fallen by 26 per cent in the past five years after a dramatic increase in success rates. For a woman under 30, a baby born after *in vitro* fertilisation costs on average £6,500, compared with £8,800 in 1998, a report said yesterday.

Success rates have also improved for older women, but because they require more treatment cycles before becoming pregnant, the expense is higher. In those aged 30 to 34, the average cost is £8,000, rising to £11,500 in the 35 to 39 group and £23,000 for those over 40. Costs will be lower for women who become pregnant within two or three attempts but higher for those who require a dozen or more.

Professor Michael Chapman, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Guy's Hospital, London, said that most clinics had doubled their success rates and the best had trebled them. Four out of five couples who had four attempts at IVF would achieve conception, he said.

The success rate varies from 3 per cent to 30 per cent among different clinics and hospitals, according to John Dickson, director of *Issue*, the national fertility association. He advised couples to go to "centres of excellence" to be sure of a good result.

Launching the report *Infer-*

More should be spent on treating infertility even if it means diverting resources from the battle against cancer, say doctors

tility — the real costs, published as part of National Fertility Week, Mr Dickson said one in six people would experience infertility for at least 12 months and the National Health Service was ignoring their needs. He read a statement from Professor Richard Lilford, head of obstetrics and gynaecology at Leeds General Infirmary, who said the pain of infertility was greater than from most diseases and treatment "should come before chemotherapy for advanced cancers, before hip replacements and before cataract surgery".

Professor Chapman, who has personal experience of infertility, backed Professor Lilford's view. "We went through a period for two years of experiencing the monthly loss, the frustration, the feeling that you're not a whole person."

"It's a value judgment [whether the NHS should provide treatment]. My complaint is that treatment is being rationed but the rationing is going on behind closed doors. It needs to come out in the open."

Professor Chapman said local hospitals were wasting money on treatments such as tubal surgery which were mostly useless and GPs were

failing to take blood tests at the right time to check ovulation. Long delays meant many patients were not receiving proper treatment until their late thirties, when chances of success were lower. Resources should be concentrated in specialist centres which could provide better service, he said.

A survey of health authorities published last week found that few gave infertility treatment a high priority, half did not provide basic treatments and only a quarter offered more advanced techniques such as *in vitro* fertilisation.

In Britain, 106 infertility centres are licensed to give treatment and 68 offer *in vitro* fertilisation. Only six are fully funded by the health service — in Bristol, Cardiff, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne and two in Liverpool.



Motherhood: Lucy Raby, who conceived after IVF treatment, with Pamela Crook's fertility painting at an exhibition in central London

TV adverts hinder child diet campaign

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SWEET and crisp manufacturers who entice children with TV advertising for junk food are undermining government health targets, experts said yesterday.

Consumption of snacks, sweets, soft drinks and cereals backed by more than £460 million of TV advertising has contributed to high levels of fat and low levels of fibre in the diets of children, a conference organised by the National Forum for Coronary Heart Disease Prevention was told.

Health, education and consumer organisations said that the advertising was encouraging unhealthy eating among children at a time when they were most vulnerable to its effects.

"The seeds of coronary heart disease are sown early in life," Professor John Goodwin, chairman of the forum, said. "A diet that is low in fat and high in fibre, with plenty of fruit and vegetables, can help prevent coronary heart disease. Our task is to make sure that healthy eating patterns

begin in childhood." Research has shown that children as young as two are brand conscious and can recognise jingles from commercials. By the age of three, they are able to spot advertised foods on supermarket shelves and nag their parents to buy them.

"The conference urged food advertisers to support the nutrition targets set out in the government white paper *The Health of the Nation* to reduce the fat content of the average diet from 40 per cent to 35 per cent by 2005.

Twelve million decayed teeth could be prevented by spending 38p per person a year on fluoridation of water supplies, a report from health economists at the University of York has concluded (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Fluoridation is by far the most cost-effective way of reducing tooth decay, but there is growing evidence that the privatised water companies are unwilling to co-operate, citing objections from their customers.



Detail from "The Roses of Heliogabalus"

Philanthropist stays silent on art museum

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

THE American philanthropist Frederick Koch, who clashed with the British arts establishment over plans to set up a museum of Victorian art in England, appears to have abandoned the project.

There has been no announcement and the only person who really knows what he intends to do is the obsessively private Mr Koch — and he is not saying. But there is strong evidence that he has given up the idea.

Many of the finest paintings which would have graced the museum have been sold or are up for sale. In February, Mr Koch sold 20 valuable pictures in New York, including "Orpheline" by James Tissot, which fetched \$2.97 million (£2 million). Later this month, two further Tissots will be sold. On June 11, the list at the London salerooms includes the lavish "The Roses of Heliogabalus" by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema.

London's art world believes that Mr Koch's efforts to set up the museum have left him

disaffected with Britain. He was a great Anglophile ten years ago and used the fortune he inherited from his oil-baron father for a £1.8 million donation to the building of the Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. He bought many Victorian paintings.

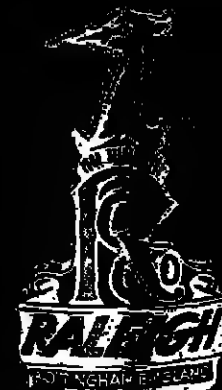
Yet when he tried to buy the Regent's Park villa, St John's Lodge, in 1986 to house his extraordinary collection of more than 2,000 items, he was thwarted by a campaign led by the architectural writer Gavin Stamp who objected to Mr Koch's plans to restructure the interior. Mr Stamp, it transpired, had written a thesis on the artist who designed the house and was determined that it should remain in its original state.

Mr Koch retreated to his English country seat Sutton Place near Guildford. The art world assumed that now it would become the Koch museum. His sales, and the fact that there is no completion date for work at Sutton Place, suggest otherwise.

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Sacked Briton takes Paris embassy to industrial tribunal

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

AN ENGLISH assistant who worked for the British embassy in Paris for 16 years appears before a French labour tribunal today seeking damages for unfair dismissal. However, the mission is claiming diplomatic immunity.

Nan Miller, 63, said she was incensed over the attitude of the embassy, where she worked as personal assistant to a senior diplomat in the 1950s and from 1979-90.

"Whitbread horses are better treated than I have been," she said yesterday. She felt particularly harshly treated because, while living in the north of France, she had also worked for years on an honorary basis for the British consulate at Lille.

Ms Miller claims the embassy infringed French laws when it told her that her job had been eliminated for economic reasons. The real reason, she says, was a conflict with a young diplomat. "I was told in the corridor, 'your job is

being cut'. There were young girls there who knew ten days earlier. I felt as if I was naked. The whole thing was disgraceful," she said.

The British embassy declined to comment on the case on the grounds that the matter was sub judice. It was understood to believe that it had acted correctly throughout, compensating Ms Miller in accordance with French law when her post was closed after a Foreign Office inspection.

The embassy said a lawyer would be present at today's hearing but it considered it did not have to answer to the French courts since the ambassador, as Ms Miller's employer, was covered by diplomatic immunity.

However Ms Miller, who said she could not afford a lawyer and was representing herself, is armed with clauses of EC treaties, signed by Britain, which state that embassies of member states are expected not to shield them-

selves from the laws of fellow members in matters of administrative nature.

Ms Miller said her dismissal from the post of assistant to the councillor for administration broke France's work laws. Employers are required to give advance notice when a post is being considered for redundancy. She said she received none. The law requires employers to dismiss younger, less experienced workers before older ones. She said there were several more junior staff in the same post.

She had waited before taking legal action because the embassy had promised to give her part-time translation work after her departure, but this had never materialised, she said. Her case has been taken up with the European Commission by Ian White, MEP for Bristol, whose office said: "We have taken up Ms Miller's case and have written a number of letters on her behalf."



Back on stream: Kenneth Dick, chairman of the Cobham Mill Preservation Trust, watches as the paddle wheel turns again at the Surrey water mill, which has been derelict for more than 60 years. Volunteers of the trust and the National Rivers Authority are behind the restoration of the mill, which, with its complicated grinding mechanism, is now in working order and open to the public

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Laird backs American plea to exploit hills

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

PLANS to extract 200,000 tons of a rare mineral from the hills of Tayside will be scrutinised at a public enquiry that opens in Perth today.

On one side will be the British subsidiary of the American company Dresser Halliburton and a local laird, Major Sir David Butler, Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, whose family trusts stand to profit from the enterprise.

Opposing them will be local authorities, anxious about the routes that lorries carrying the ore would take, and Scottish Natural Heritage, which is concerned about the impact on an area of natural beauty.

M1 Great Britain Ltd is seeking approval for its plans to exploit a rich seam of barytes, which is used as a drilling mud to prevent blow-outs in oilfields and has been found 1,500ft below the Clunie more Hills, within Sir David's estate. The mine would be close to the beauty spot Queen's View, at the end of Loch Tummel.

The enquiry is expected to last eight weeks and cost £1 million. Planning permission was given for the mine but the firm refused to agree to the road routes demanded by Perth and Kinross district council and Tayside regional council for carrying the ore to Aberdeen.

The councils want the company to use trunk routes including the A9 to Perth, while the company favours a more direct route, 21 miles shorter, via Dunkeld and Coupar Angus.

It claims that the longer route would not permit drivers to make two round trips a day within permitted hours of work.

While sympathising with Dunkeld residents, a spokesman said the company already had 12 lorries a day going through the town from a mine at Foss, and the new mine would increase the number to between 16 and 18. "We feel we would not be adding greatly to the problem," he said.

Bishop of Edmonton threatens to resign

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AN ANGLICAN bishop has indicated that he might resign from the Church of England over the issue of women priests. Hundreds of clergy have threatened to resign, but the Right Rev Brian Masters, Bishop of Edmonton, north London, is the first bishop to do so.

Bishop Masters, 60, was quoted in yesterday's *Irish Times* as saying: "I am seriously considering whether or not it is possible for me to remain within the church." However, his chaplain, the Rev Nicholas Wheeler, denied reports that Bishop Masters intended to become a Roman Catholic priest.

His warning comes as the ecclesiastical committee of Parliament meets today for the third time to discuss the measure to ordain women priests. A narrow majority on the committee is understood to support the legislation, expected to be debated by both Houses of Parliament after the summer recess.

Anglican clergy in support of women priests are intending to lobby outside Parliament during the meeting.

Caroline Davis, of the Movement for the Ordination of Women, said more than 1,200 women deacons were waiting to become Anglican priests. "There has been an over-emphasis in the last six months on those unable to accept the decision. It's time some thought was given to the women-in-waiting."

The number of defections to the Roman Catholic Church is unclear. Five Catholic priests have published an open letter to church leaders warning of "disruption and confusion" if special arrangements are made for the conversion of Anglicans. If Anglican bishops, who meet next month, endorse an act of synod that would give stronger protection to opponents in the church than previously envisaged, the number of defections could be much lower than the early predictions of up to 1,000 clergy.

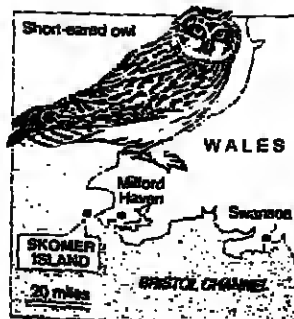
Twitchers flock to island's rare treat

By NICHOLAS WATT

BIRDWATCHERS are converging on a small island off the Pembrokeshire coast to catch a glimpse of one of Britain's rarest owls after a spring population explosion.

The 440 acres of Skomer now boast more short-eared owls than the rest of Wales after chicks hatched ten weeks earlier than normal thanks to the mild winter. There are believed to be 24 on the island and more birds could be born before the end of the breeding season.

Stephen Sutcliffe of the Dyfed Wildlife Trust, which manages the island, said: "They are supposed to be rare birds but we've got plenty of them. There are short-eared owls all over the island. Gulls used to get upset when an owl was near by but they can't be



Short-eared owl

bothered now — there's no avoiding them."

The trust says it may have to lay on extra boats to cope with all the twitchers who want to see the rare owls.

The 15in high birds will not go hungry as the island has plenty of mice and Skomer voles, a tiny rodent. Scientists last year counted more than 20,000 of the voles living in the island's dense undergrowth.

Six held after disturbances

Teenagers in council home pelt police with broken glass

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FOUR teenage girls and two youths hurled pieces of wood and broken glass at police sent to quell a disturbance in a council children's home.

Officers were forced to use riot gear, including protective helmets, perspex shields and truncheons, after the teenagers pelted them with missiles from a window in the room where they had barricaded themselves.

Up to ten officers stormed the room at Oakhill House in Edgbaston, south Birmingham, on Sunday night and arrested the teenagers. Last night, they were being questioned in connection with an offence of affray and causing

criminal damage during 30 minutes of disturbances at the home in which tables, chairs and windows were smashed.

Police found glue in the room in which the teenagers had barricaded themselves after refusing to go to bed. Police could not confirm that the children had been sniffing the glue. Those under arrest are four girls aged 15 and two 14-year-old boys.

Najma Hafeez, Labour chairman of Birmingham City Council's social services committee, condemned the trouble, which caused about £1,000 of damage. She said: "There's no excuse for going wild and running out of

order." Windows at the home, run by the council social services department, were smashed and a minibus vandalised during the trouble, which began at about 11pm. The teenagers then rushed into a dormitory and barricaded themselves in with furniture.

Cupboards, curtains, ceramic tiles, waste bins, bricks, sticks and glass were hurled at police as they attempted to enter the home. West Midlands police said yesterday: "When the police arrived, sticks and glass were thrown at officers who asked to be allowed into the room." The officers then returned to their vehicle to put on protective clothing, including helmets and perspex shields.

Richard Mayor, 21, a student living opposite the home, who watched the incident from his first-floor bedroom window, said he was woken at 11pm by a loud bang. "I looked out of my window and saw kids smashing windows and hurling anything they could find out of upstairs windows."

He rang the police and when one car arrived, the two officers were pelted with bits of furniture, he said. Mr Mayor added: "About five minutes later, six or seven vans turned up with riot police and a fire engine. The scenes were extremely violent."

Mr Mayor's father said that the low level of staff on duty at the home on Sundays was to blame for the problems. He said that nearby residents had signed a petition urging the social services department to improve security at the home.

The home is a 12-bed unit but only eight young people were there on Sunday. It is used as a reception centre for young people who have just been taken into the care of the local authority. It is a home for children with behavioural and emotional difficulties and sometimes houses young offenders. The only staff on duty at the time of the disturbance were two residential care workers, with a duty manager on call.

Barbara Elsom, a council spokeswoman, said that police had been called when the six teenagers refused to let staff into a room in the home. The young people had been upset earlier in the afternoon over family issues and that though they had been disruptive, they had not been out of control.

Fact-pack aims to ease children's trauma in sex trials

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE likelihood of child abusers walking free after young witnesses break down in court could be reduced by an information pack designed to remove children's fears of the legal system.

The pack is intended to demystify the court process and explain to children in simple terms what will happen.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said as he launched the pack yesterday: "Courts can be intimidating places, especially for children. This pack will take away some of the fear of the unknown."

"There must always be feelings of failure and anger when children are brought into the ambit of criminal trials because they have been the victims of or witnesses to abuse, either physical or sexual."

Children, he said, had a right to justice and their interests and those of justice could not be separated. Clear guidance and training to those working in the area of child abuse were two ways to maintain those fundamental rights.

"It is all too easy for those of us involved with the processes of the law on a daily basis to forget the trauma that a victim or witness may experience, not only on the day of a trial, but

also in the weeks leading up to it, and the days that follow," Lord Mackay said.

The pack has been drawn up by a team from government departments and voluntary bodies. There are three booklets: two in "child-friendly" language for children aged five to nine years and 10 to 15 years; and the third for parents and carers.

Valerie Howarth, executive director of ChildLine, said: "Anxiety about the possibility of child witnesses being inappropriately 'coached' should not prevent them from being given proper preparation for the experience." The pack would help strengthen child witnesses and reduce the chances of their breakdown in court through stress and fear.

"It also means fewer child abusers will walk free simply because of the child's inability to tell their story." The new pack comes after reforms to the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which abolished the legal presumption that young children are "incompetent witnesses"; allowed criminal proceedings in magistrates' courts to be bypassed where a child is a victim or witness of abuse; extended television links at court for child witnesses; and allowed the use of pre-recorded taped interviews.



Lifetime of a journey: Dame Freya pony-trekking in Nepal at the age of 77, above, in her youth, top right, and at home in her later years

Dame Freya embarks alone on final journey

BY ALAN HAMILTON

DURING a lifetime of travel writing, Dame Freya Stark once wrote an essay imagining that her last journey would be like walking alone into the desert — and not coming back. She died on Sunday at her home near Venice, at the age of 100; only she will ever know how the expedition went.

John Murray, her publisher and biographer, said yesterday that death was a journey to which Dame Freya had always looked forward, although she

would have preferred to go while climbing Annapurna, a feat she attempted at the age of 83.

A specialist on the Middle East, and sometime wartime spy in Cairo and Baghdad, Dame Freya began writing in the 1930s with the much-acclaimed *The Valleys of the Assassins* and *Letters from Syria*. Her last book purely on travel was *The Minaret of Djam*, on a journey into Afghanistan, published in 1970.

Her reputation was seriously assaulted earlier this year in a biogra-

phy by her long-time acquaintance and fellow-Arabist, Molly Izard, who accused her of hypochondria, snobbery and invention.

"The whole entitlement of 'explorer' is wrong," Mrs Izard said. "Her journeys were quite small, and not successful. They ended with her either being ill or being expelled."

Mr Murray said: "We do not necessarily quarrel with her criticisms, but she [Molly Izard] was incapable of seeing the positive side. Freya made it quite clear she was

never an explorer; she was a traveller, an observer of people."

Dame Freya, born in Paris on January 31, 1893, defined her own craft thus: "To travel properly you have to ignore external inconveniences and surrender yourself entirely to the experience. You must blend into your surroundings and accept what comes. In this way, you become part of the land and that is where the reward comes."

Obituary, page 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sex-change insurance plea fails

Joanna Hooker, 38, who fathered three children before a sex change operation last year, failed in a Court of Appeal attempt to obtain a new National Insurance number.

Miss Hooker, of Newchurch, Kent, has been given a replacement driving licence and passport, but Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, refuses to give her the new number, which she says is psychologically important.

Three judges said Mr Lilley's decision was rational because the numbers did not indicate sex.

£930,000 award

Sophia Jivraj, 18, from Wembley, northwest London, who suffered brain damage during her Caesarian birth at West London Hospital, was awarded £930,000 agreed damages in the High Court. She cannot walk or talk.

Rapist jailed

A pet shop worker, Gary Oakley, 24, of Thornton Heath, south London, who raped one disabled woman and assaulted another, was jailed for eight and a half years at the Old Bailey.

Sunroof ordeal

A man is to appear in court at Warrington, Cheshire, today after Wayne Roberts, 30, a special constable, was driven at high speed on the bonnet of a car with his hand trapped in the sunroof.

Moving head

The embalmed head of Sir Walter Raleigh may be moved from the chapel floor at St Mary's Church in West Horsley, Surrey, to make way for a new £120,000 organ.

Pier cut free

A 40ft section of the town pier floated down the Medway after vandals cut it free at Chatham, Kent.

Slim pickings

A house at Fratton, Hampshire, with a 4ft 10in frontage, said to be Britain's thinnest, has been sold for £70,000.

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CHAMPIONSHIP CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Britain's Michael Adams had a disappointing result in the recently concluded Seville tournament. It was expected that he would battle with Karpov and Judith Polgar for first place, but a string of losses put him out of contention. Today's game shows him losing to one of the members of Karpov's new training team.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Vladimir Epishin
Seville 1993

- Trompovsky**
- 1 d4 Nf6
 - 2 Bg5
 - 3 e4 h6
 - 4 Bxf6 Qxf6
 - 5 Nf3 d6
 - 6 Ne3 g6
 - 7 e5 Qe7
 - 8 Qe2 Bg7
 - 9 0-0-0
 - 10 h4 Bx7
 - 11 Ne4 Bx6
 - 12 Qf4 Bxe4
 - 13 Qxe4 Qe5
 - 14 Qf4 Nf7
 - 15 Ne5 Nf6
 - 16 Nc4 Kf8
 - 17 Nd5 h5
 - 18 Kb1 Rf8
 - 19 Be2 Nd5
 - 20 Qg3 c5
 - 21 Ne5 Qf6
 - 22 Qe3 Qe2
 - 23 Qxc5 Qx2
 - 24 Qe5 Qe2
 - 25 Qe1 Qe2
 - 26 Bc3 Nf4
 - 27 Bc4 Qe2
 - 28 Qxe2 Nxe2
 - 29 Bx7 Rf8
 - 30 Bc6 Nd1
 - 31 Kc1 Bxe5
 - 32 Rd1 Kf7
 - 33 Qe5



THE TIMES
WORLD CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP

- 35 c4 Rf8
- 36 Rc1 g5
- 37 c5 Rf2
- 38 Bc4 Rf2
- 39 fxe5 Rxb7
- 40 Bc5 Rb7
- 41 e4 Rf4
- 42 Bb5 Rf7
- 43 Bc6 Rf8
- 44 Bc7 Rb7
- 45 Rd1 Rf5

White resigns

This is the starter problem for the 1993/94 British Chess Problem Solving Championship. White is to play and mate in 2 moves.

Send your solution to:
British Chess Problem Solving Championship,
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Manningham, London SE9 4PB.

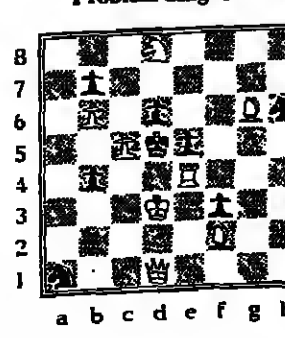
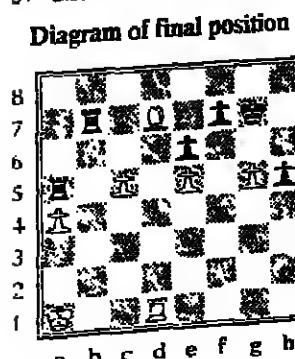
Postmarked no later than 31st May 1993. Remember to mark your entry The Times.

For the past three years there have been more entries from Times readers than from any other newspaper or magazine in the world. Keep up the good work.

Only White's first move is required.

Winning Move, Page 40

Problem diagram



Girl of 15 completes weekend chess feat

BRITAIN'S brightest girl chess prodigy scored a spectacular double over the weekend (Raymond Keene writes).

On Saturday, in the Golders Green Quickplay in north London, Harriet Hunt, 15, inflicted a crushing defeat on the former British champion grandmaster James Plaskett, wiping him out in 33 moves.

On Sunday, she travelled the short distance to the Barbican, where she scored five points from six, taking second prize behind grandmaster Michael Adams, who is ranked as the second best player in the UK after Nigel Short.

Harriet's recent chess achievements include playing in the women's world championship zonal in Holland earlier this year, scoring 5½ points out of 9, and gaining the women's Fide master title in the process, and last week winning the adult Oxfordshire county championship, beating her 12-year-old brother in the final.

Harriet, who attends Oxford High School for girls, has played chess for only five years. She hopes to make the women's Olympiad team next year.

Here are the moves of her one-sided victory against James Plaskett over the weekend, in which she had the white pieces.

- | | | | |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| White | Black | White | Black |
| 1 e4 | c5 | 18 Bg5 | Qe6 |
| 2 Nf3 | d6 | 19 Bxf6 | Bxf6 |
| 3 d4 | c4 | 20 Bxb6 | Bxb6 |
| 4 Nc3 | Nf6 | 21 Bc4 | Rg8 |
| 5 Bc4 | g6 | 22 Bc5 | Nf5 |
| 6 e5 | g5 | 23 Bxb6 | Rg8 |
| 7 Bc2 | Bf7 | 24 Bc4 | Qe6 |
| 8 e4 | Qe7 | 25 Bc4 | Qe6 |
| 9 0-0 | Qe7 | 26 Bc4 | Qe6 |
| 10 Bc4 | Qe7 | 27 Bc4 | Qe6 |
| 11 Nf3 | Bf7 | 28 Qe2 | Qe6 |
| 12 Qe1 | Qe6 | 29 Qe2 | Qe6 |
| 13 Qe2 | Qe6 | 30 Qe2 | Qe6 |
| 14 e5 | Qe6 | 31 Qe2 | Qe6 |
| 15 Bc4 | Qe6 | 32 Qe2 | Qe6 |
| 16 Bc4 | Qe6 | 33 Qe2 | Qe6 |
| 17 e5 | Qe6 | | |

White resigns

Major seeks an olive branch to offer disgruntled voters and Tory backbenchers

John Major was in a self-proclaimed listening mood yesterday. At one of his regular Downing Street lunches with Tory backbenchers, he asked about their worries. The MPs offered a list of familiar complaints about the economy, testing in schools, party splits, mistakes and doubts about government competence.

The question which Mr Major and his advisers addressed at the earlier meeting of business managers was how to demonstrate that the government was responding without appearing to panic. They believe the Tory troubles at

the polls are largely the result of the recession and divisions over Maastricht. Both should disappear later this year. So there were the inevitable calming platitudes: "you keep your nerve, you keep your head, you don't bow", as Michael Heseltine put it yesterday in one of his displays of being a Big Man above the fray.

The timing and scope of the planned summer reshuffle will, officials say, be unaffected. Per-

haps. The prime minister is determined not to be pushed around by Fleet Street and his more jittery backbenchers. Alternatively, Norman Lamont has two months to show why he should be kept on as Chancellor. There was little sign yesterday of Tory MPs rallying round him.

Mr Major does not believe fundamental changes of policy are necessary. There will be no climbdown over VAT and no relaxation of the government's determination to cut public borrowing. However, the political will in practice, as opposed to theory,

to squeeze spending and raise taxes again will be tested in the autumn, whoever is Chancellor.

Although backbenchers are predictably split about whether the government should consolidate or be more radical, Mr Major believes it is vital to press ahead. No changes to the legislative programme for 1994-5 are being discussed.

Tory leaders are considering ways of showing they are listening to the public — offering an olive branch without appearing weak. The immediate focus is school

tests. There will be no change in the principle, though they accept that implementation has gone awry. This is contrasted with the opposition to the basic idea of the teacher unions. The search is on for some compromise which will defend the immediate row without undermining the introduction of testing. Downgrading the importance of this year's tests as part of the Dearing review is one possibility. But this is complicated by the intention to press on with radical reforms of teacher training which will weaken the unions. Otherwise, the government will ensure

that the franchising of British Rail services will be linked with the passenger's charter and tight performance standards.

Law and order will also be emphasised with two big bills in the coming session, one on the reorganisation of the police (likely to cause an increasing stir) and another on criminal justice (dealing with young offenders, anomalies in the 1991 act, bail and possibly also any proposals from the Runciman commission).

The trouble, as always, is bringing these ideas together to create a coherent overall message. Mr

Major has never been strong on articulating the Big Idea. Anyway, few have wanted to listen while the recession and Maastricht have dominated. Now he has to show not only that he is responding to the worries of voters, and more immediately Tory MPs, but also that he can offer a sense of direction. The first indications will come in his speech on Friday to the Scottish Tory conference in Edinburgh.

PETER RIDDELL
Leading article, page 15

Government refuses to yield over VAT on fuel

By Sheila Gunn and Robert Morgan

PENSIONERS and charities will not be exempted from VAT on domestic fuel bills, Michael Portillo, the chief secretary to the Treasury, told MPs yesterday.

Mr Portillo stood firm against appeals from Conservative MPs, arguing that the poorest pensioners living on benefits would be helped and the charities offered tax relief to compensate them. "It is necessary to draw the line somewhere," he said. "And it is unrealistic to exempt all pensioners."

MPs were debating a Labour proposal to delete the VAT increases — announced in the March Budget — from the Finance Bill. In March the government said it would levy VAT at 8 per cent next year on electricity and gas bills, rising to 17.5 per cent in 1995. Mr Portillo said that if extra measures were taken to help with fuel bills, they could cost another £1 billion in benefits and take away revenue from the Exchequer. He was repeatedly questioned by his own backbenchers about the impact of the VAT proposal.

Patrick Nicholls, MP for Teignbridge, said that merely helping pensioners on income support would not be enough. Another West Country MP,

Angela Browning from Tiverton, also argued that pensioners would be hard hit. Terry Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, accused the government of penalising people who saved and yet subsidising the Royal Opera House. He suggested cutting out overseas aid and subsidies to the arts instead of putting VAT on fuel bills. Michael Stern, MP for Bristol North West, pointed out that many people lived in hard-to-heat homes.

Mr Portillo emphasised the need to cut the government's £50 billion public sector borrowing requirement and put public finances back on a sound basis. Extra help through income support, housing and council tax benefit would be channelled to eight million households. He dismissed the idea of leaving VAT off standing charges as costly and administratively inefficient.

William Powell, the Tory MP for Corby, who abstained when the original Budget resolution was voted on in March, said that he would vote with Labour. "The Chancellor has made a very serious error of judgment," he said. "I personally feel ashamed that my party could bring forward



Member's entrance: David Rendel, the new MP for Newbury, arriving in triumph to take his seat in the Commons yesterday, a day early, surrounded by his Liberal Democrat colleagues, from left, Alan Beith, Paul Tyler, Charles Kennedy and Matthew Taylor

such a proposal to this House. I know that my constituents would feel ashamed of me if I were to vote for it tonight." It was those people just above income support level who would suffer and those on benefits would not get full compensation.

Labour quickly seized on the extension of VAT as an

example of the government's complacency and arrogance that had led to its electoral humiliation last week and should lead to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, losing his job.

David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP who inflicted

an overwhelming defeat on the government at Newbury, took his Commons seat yesterday, a day early, so that he could listen to the debate and vote against the VAT proposals.

Mr Rendel focused his by-election campaign heavily on the issue of VAT and collected a 6,000-signature protest

petition. Harriet Harman, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, immediately widened the VAT debate by demanding to know whether the government's weekend commitment to taking a "more humble tone" would extend to backing down over VAT. The decision to impose VAT on fuel had shown that the government "does not think about what it is doing, does not consult about the effects of what it is doing and does not listen to protests", she said.

She warned Conservative MPs who were wavering in

their opposition to the charge not to be deceived by government promises of compensation. "They are saving their consciences because the worst excesses will be saved by compensation." There were no details of how much compensation would be available.

Government promises could not be trusted after it broke its pre-election pledges to reduce taxation and not to impose VAT on fuel, she said.

Ms Harman said that there would not be full compensation for people on benefits and they and the lowest paid would be worse off.

According to government figures, she said, next year charities would pay £10 million in VAT, and £25 million the following year. And this was at a time when their donations from companies and individuals were declining.

Ms Harman poured scorn on the claim that the extension of VAT was being imposed to cut greenhouse gases. "This is not a tax to deal with the hole in the ozone layer, it is a tax to deal with the hole in the government's economic policy. It is not a measure from a government that has gone green. It is a measure from a government that has gone into the red," she said.

A reshuffle would not solve the problems, Ms Harman said. What the voters had said at the Newbury by-election on Thursday was not that they wanted someone different to do the job, but they wanted the job done differently. The Chancellor should go. He did not command the confidence of the country and his lack of credibility was a threat to sustainable economic growth.

MP urges Major to 'sell' EC benefits

By Arthur Leathley

TORY divisions over Maastricht resurfaced last night when a ministerial aide called on the government to be more positive about Europe and denounced the party's "Europhobic" element.

In an attempt to "redress the balance" and project a more positive image of the EC, the pro-Maastricht wing of the party marked Europe Day, commemorating the first moves towards a European Community, by voicing the need for better explanation of the treaty's virtues.

Ian Taylor, parliamentary private secretary to William Waldegrave, the public service minister, and a committed pro-European, published *The Positive Europe*, a 70-page document which criticised the party's Euro-sceptics for damaging British interests by their negative attitude.

Mr Taylor, the MP for Esher, also calls on John Major and senior ministers to be more aggressive in outlining the benefits of EC membership. He warns Mr Major of the risk to Tory electoral chances of failing to press home the advantages of being in the EC. "Being negative and defensive about Europe wins few friends at home and reduces our influence in the Community," he says.

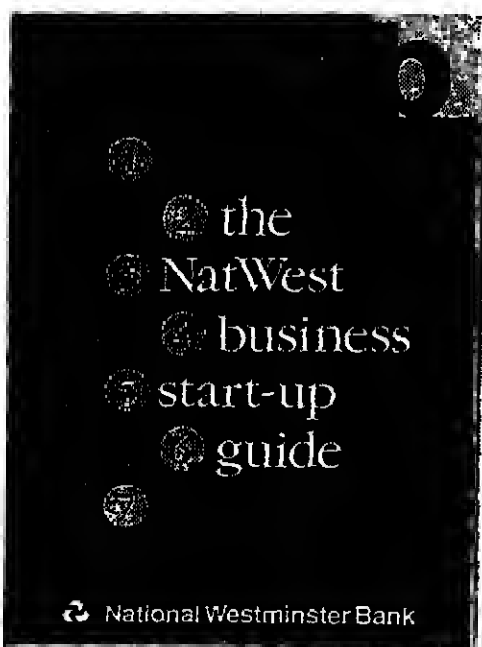
The document questions the wisdom of the government's triumphant return from Maastricht with opt-outs on the social chapter and economic and monetary union. "To praise the Maastricht treaty by highlighting those aspects to which we are not committed makes it harder to explain to the public why its ratification is so important."

Mr Hurd writes in the document's foreword: "It is time to lift our eyes from the trenches. We need to show the British people that our membership of the Community brings solid advantages and opportunities for them."

The Positive Europe, Conservative Group for Europe, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HH, £5.

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Hospital waiting lists approach 1m

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

NHS hospital waiting lists rose by more than 8 per cent last year to within a whisker of the politically sensitive figure of one million.

Figures released yesterday show that hospital queues have grown from 915,607 in March 1992 to 992,324 a year later, an increase of almost 77,000. The lists rose by 1.6 per cent in the three months from December 1992, when many hospitals were forced to halt non-urgent surgery because they had run out of money.

Labour accused the government of being responsible for "the worst ever waiting lists" and cited the rise as evidence that the NHS reforms have been an "expensive failure".

However, government figures show that the NHS is treating more patients than ever before. Despite the increase in hospital activity, patients are still joining the queues faster than they are being treated. Ministers sought to minimise the damage by highlighting the sharp fall in the number of patients waiting more than one year, down by 29.8 per cent since March 1992. "It is the time that patients wait for treatment that matters, not the total number waiting," Tom Sackville, parliamentary secretary for health, said.

Half of all admissions to hospital were immediate and half of those placed on waiting lists were admitted within five weeks, he said. Nearly three-quarters were admitted within three months and 98 per cent within a year.

No regional health authority has patients waiting longer than two years for treatment but the health authorities of

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: education; prime minister. Finance bill, committee, second day.

Lords (2.30): housing and urban development bill, report.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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28th May - 6th June 1993

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The Times debate on the future of the monarchy moves to Hay on Saturday, 29 May. Chaired by William Rees-Mogg, the speakers are Ferdinand Mount, the author of *The British Constitution Now*, and Elizabeth Longford, author of *Royal Throne: The Future of the Monarchy*, Matthew Parris, *The Times* sketch writer, and the former Deputy leader of HM Opposition, Roy Hattersley. Tickets are £7.00.

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- Antonia Fraser gives the P.E.N. Lecture on the Wives of Henry VIII.
 - Peter Mayle, Joanna Trollope and Mary Wesley are interviewed about their writing and successes.
 - Grand Inquisitor Robin Day is grilled by Sheema McDonald.
 - Frederic Raphael in conversation with David Grossman.
 - Maya Angelou rings down the curtain on the last night with the Chorus of the Welsh National Opera.

To book for *The Times* Debate and obtain full Festival details, please fill in the form and send with a SAE (11x22cm) to: The Box Office, Hay-on-Wye HR3 5BX. Credit Card Hotline 0497 821299.

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Left-winger offered media job by Rabin to preserve coalition

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, Israel's embattled prime minister, was thrown on the defensive yesterday as he fought to keep his coalition government together and the right-wing opposition at bay.

On the second day of the most serious political crisis to face Mr Rabin's ten-month administration, the Israeli leader appeared to have brokered a compromise to end a bitter row between his junior coalition partners, the left-wing Meretz party and the ultra-Orthodox Jewish Shas party.

Arye Deri, the Shas leader and interior minister, tendered the resignation of his six-seat parliamentary party from the government on Sunday in protest at the behaviour



Aloni visiting Rabin's office yesterday

■ A reshuffle seems to have resolved the Israeli cabinet split. The opposition is pressing ahead with no-confidence votes

of Shulamit Aloni, the Meretz leader and education minister, for her repeated criticism of Jewish religious tradition. Mr Deri had accused Mrs Aloni of making remarks harmful to the religious public.

Yesterday Mr Rabin offered to make Mrs Aloni minister for communications and culture, a powerful new post in control of the state-run media, and to give the education portfolio to one of her less outspoken Meretz colleagues.

Although it is not clear if the proposed cabinet reshuffle will bring a permanent solution to the coalition infighting, the gesture was expected to save the government from a potentially bruising vote in the Knesset last night.

Mr Rabin's narrow majority of only four seats is being severely stretched by three no-confidence motions tabled by the main right-wing opposition groups, Likud, Tsomet and the National Religious party.

□ **Settlers 'spied on'**: Israeli newspapers said yesterday that the Shin Bet general security service was spying on some Jewish settler leaders in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in advance of a possible deal on Palestinian self-rule and the setting up of a Palestinian police force.

The *Haaretz* newspaper quoted a senior Israeli security source as saying that service agents had tapped the tele-

phone lines of the heads of some local councils, as well as extremists, who have recently threatened to resist the setting-up of the Palestinian police force.

Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's spokesman, refused to make any comment on the newspaper reports.

Leaders of the 100,000 Jewish settlers have been angered by calls to set up the Palestinian police force. The Israeli army said last week that it had confiscated weapons from activists of the "highway security committee", a Jewish group affiliated to Jewish extremists in the occupied territories.

Another Israeli newspaper, *Maariv*, said settlers have complained that the Shin Bet was trying to recruit informers among them. (Reuters)



Family reunion: Muhammad al-Khrinej, five, being held by his uncle, Salem al-Oneizi, at Kuwait airport on the boy's return home with his three brothers and two sisters, aged two to 21. The six were detained by Iraq when they strayed over the border while on a picnic a month ago. King Hassan of Morocco mediated their release

Denktas heads for royal snub

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

BRITAIN is reconsidering tentative plans for the Queen to meet Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, because of his refusal to extradite Asil Nadir, the fugitive tycoon. The Queen is to visit Cyprus for the first time in October to attend the Commonwealth heads of government meeting.

The royal rebuff is part of the growing diplomatic price that Mr Denktas is having to pay for the presence in Northern Cyprus of Mr Nadir, who jumped bail of £3.5 million and is evading British justice.

According to the plans, the Queen would have met Mr Denktas strictly as leader of the Turkish Cypriot community and not as head of the unilaterally declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. However, any meeting would have conferred a degree of recognition on him. Mr Denktas has said he cannot hand over Mr Nadir because his administration has no extradition treaty with Britain.

The Commonwealth summit is being hosted by President Clerides and the Greek Cypriot-led government.

Palestinian leader pulls out of talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE Middle East peace process suffered a serious blow yesterday when Faisal Husseini, the chief Palestinian negotiator, withdrew from talks along with ten other members of his delegation.

A statement from the Palestine Liberation Organisation said the negotiating team's reduction — from 14 to only three — was in protest at the failure of the United States and Israel to implement promises which had persuaded the PLO to end its four-month boycott of the talks.

The move comes at a bad time for the Clinton administration, which is deeply involved in the Bosnian crisis. It had earlier pledged more active participation than the previous Bush team in helping the Middle East negotiators overcome obstacles.

In addition to reducing their personnel, the Palestinians have also decided to pull out of three committees set up in Washington to discuss in detail the question of Palestinian self-rule, land, water, and human rights in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, who has been bitterly criticised by Palestinians for agreeing to resume the talks last month, said yesterday that it had been decided to reduce participation at the

peace talks to a symbolic level in protest at Israeli tactics.

The Palestinians allege that Israel and the US reneged on pledges to speed the return of the 396 Palestinian deportees still stranded in southern Lebanon, and to improve human rights observation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Pressure has been building on the PLO to stage a diplomatic protest over the continuing bloodshed in Gaza.

By cutting the size of the negotiating team, observers said the PLO had minimised the chances of the talks making progress. Bilateral discussions between Israel and Syria are also approaching deadlock over the occupied Golan Heights.

After a weekend meeting in Tunis, the PLO has also formally rejected an Israeli offer on the future shape of Palestinian autonomy. The disagreement is over the question of whether Israel will agree to pull out eventually from all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, has stated that he does not want to be tied by the Camp David precedent, under which Israel was forced to hand back the occupied Sinai in order to secure a peace treaty with Egypt.

Saudi rights group angers ruling family

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE ruling Saudi royal family has reacted angrily to the establishment of the kingdom's first committee for the defence of human rights.

Saudi Arabia has attempted in the past to minimise internal dissent against government policies. It has been commonplace to restrict personal liberties and prevent even the level of democracy achieved in Kuwait and neighbouring Yemen.

After the new committee had begun its work, and had encouraged Saudi officials and Islamic scholars to co-operate, its six founding members were summoned by Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd. The founders include Islamic scholars, a lawyer and two university professors.

The prince was said to have expressed his "dissatisfaction and astonishment" at the formation of the committee. The group had appealed to fellow Saudis to provide it with "information that would defend

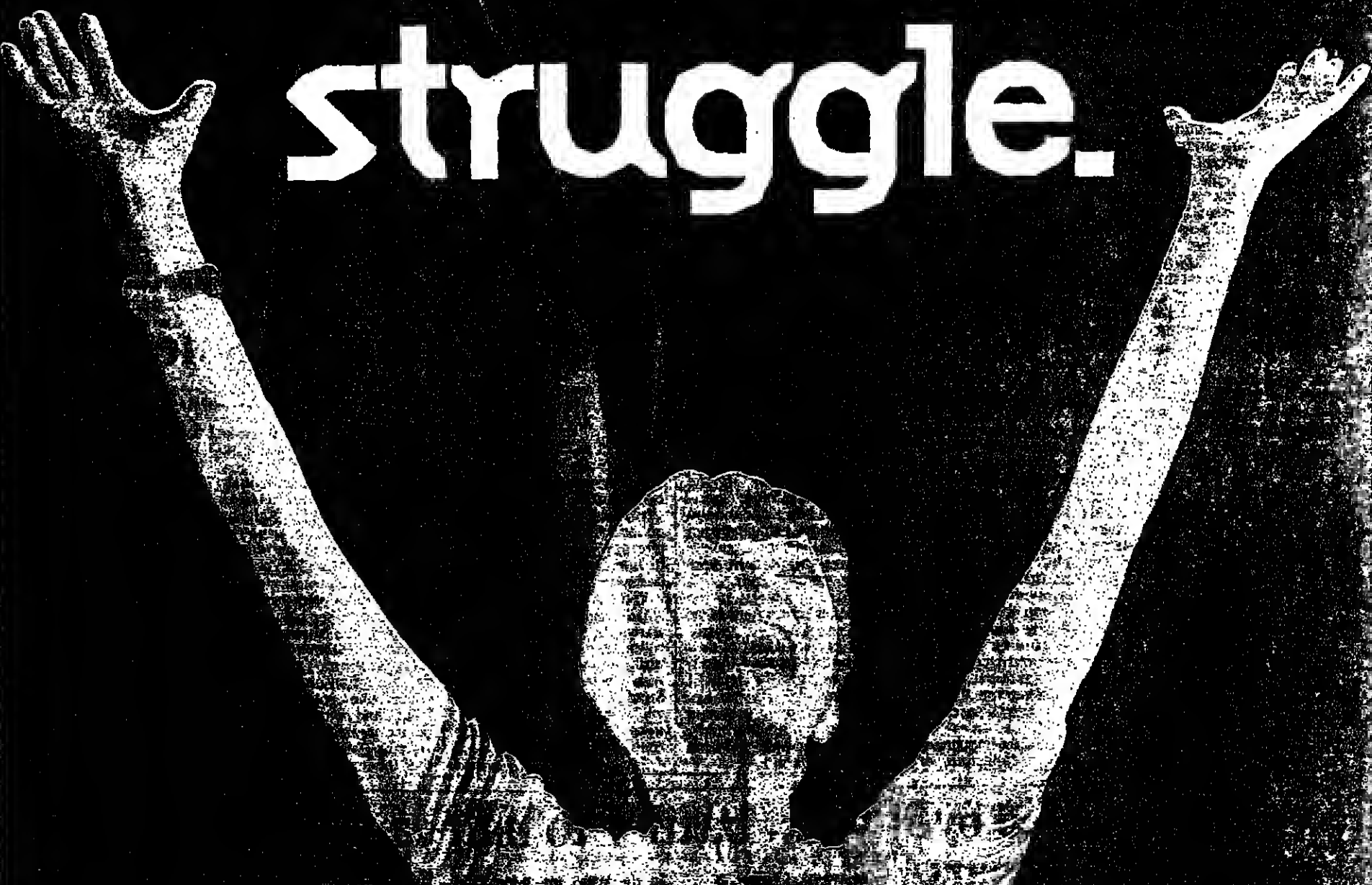
rights secured by Sharia (Islamic law)".

The dispute over the human rights watchdog has also highlighted the currents of disagreement that run within Saudi society. Traditional religious leaders feel that Islam is coming under threat from an intelligentsia pushing for more Western-style civil liberties.

After the dressing down delivered to the founding members, Sheikh Abdullah al-Masari, the committee leader and a retired judge and former head of Saudi Arabia's equivalent of the ombudsman, told the BBC that the members had defended their position. The shahk said that the six had explained to the prince they were acting in line with Islamic principles by founding the committee.

Many Saudis are privately concerned about the repressive activities of the Mutawa, the religious police, and it was believed that their excesses might in future be referred to the committee.

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Balladur increases taxes to cut deficit and prime economy

FROM CHARLES BREMMER
IN PARIS

TWELVE years to the day since President Mitterrand won power amid national celebration, France's new Gaullist-led government yesterday launched an austerity budget which it depicted as the bill for years of Socialist improvidence.

Edouard Balladur, the prime minister, among other measures, raised a special "social fund" income tax from 1.1 to 2.4 per cent of earnings and imposed higher duty on petrol, meaning low-lead petrol will now cost 5.43 francs per litre (£2.78 a gallon), and a 16 per cent tax rise on spirits, while easing the burden on employers. His aim is to close the yawning deficit of the budget and state social funds while priming the economy for recovery. To set an example of the spirit of sacrifice being expected, government ministers will submit to a 10 per cent pay cut.

To stimulate growth and slow unemployment, now at 10.7 per cent, the government is trying to raise 21.5 billion francs (£2.5 billion). It will pass on 12.9 billion francs in tax advantages and investment to key industries, including housing, small business and farmers.

The state of France's public finance was "exceptionally serious", M. Balladur said. Without the new taxes, which will make French petrol the highest taxed in Europe, the country risked losing its exemplary social benefits, he said. An official audit last week forecast a budget deficit of 341 billion francs this year, about 5 per

■ The Gaullists are relying on their honeymoon with the voters to introduce austerity. But with expected economic contraction, the unions are complaining

cent of national income, with social security and retirement pensions a further 100 billion francs in the red.

To win acceptance for the bitter medicine, M. Balladur is banking on his continuing honeymoon with voters six weeks after the Gaullists and

Le Pen sues

Nancy: Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French far-right National Front, started a 100,000 franc (£12,000) court action yesterday after he was branded the "spiritual son of Hitler" by Paul-Elie Levy, an anti-racism campaigner, during a regional election rally in Nancy in January last year. M. Le Pen's lawyer said a "witchhunt" was being conducted, but M. Levy argued that the remarks were part of the robust traditions of "republican debate". (AFP)

their centre-right allies crushed M. Mitterrand's Socialist party in general elections. He has been preparing the ground for austerity since taking office.

Unlike the period of cohabitation between M. Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac's Gaullist government, from 1986 to 1988, when the president was in the running for a second term, M. Mitterrand, 76, is

now a lame duck. With two years left in office, and suffering from prostate cancer, he has been wounded by the scale of the Socialist electoral defeat and the suicide of Pierre Bérégovoy, the former prime minister.

In sombre mood, the president last night gathered with loyal lieutenants in a Paris restaurant to mark the anniversary of May 10, 1958, when M. Mitterrand unseated President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and brought the left to power after 23 years of Gaullist and conservative rule. "Even in his own camp they are openly announcing the end of Mitterrandism," *Le Figaro* said yesterday.

In contrast, M. Balladur has charted a near-faultless course in the first few weeks of his administration, appearing graceful in his dealings with the president, avoiding friction over the "shared areas" of foreign affairs and defence. Even the expectation of tax rises has failed to dim the ratings of the prime minister.

Commentators doubted the honeymoon could last much longer. The economy is expected to contract by 0.4 per cent this year, the first without any growth since the early 1980s. The communist-led CGT trade unions denounced his plans for tax rises, saying they were the opposite of what was needed to revive the economy.

Danes turn to 'sweet prince' for Maastricht guidance



At the European crossroads: rival "ja" and "nej" posters vying for attention yesterday in Copenhagen as Danes prepare to vote again on Maastricht next Tuesday

To be or not to be European, that is Elsinore question

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN ELSINORE

With a week to go before Denmark's vote on the Maastricht treaty, the citizens of Hamlet's town are pondering whether they should trigger what one of Shakespeare's characters calls "a strange eruption on our state". The shock of a second "no" vote would reach far wider than Denmark and shake the European Community.

The opinion polls have recently been changing significantly. The gap between the pro and anti-treaty camps has almost halved in a week. Sunday's Gallup figures showed the "yes" campaign leading with 46 per cent to 34 per cent, and 20 per cent were still undecided. Most striking, the poll found voters who back the Social Democratic voters, the largest party, swinging against the treaty in defiance of its leader's advice.

In the past few days, the campaign has perked up with what is referred to in *Hamlet* as "much throwing about of brains", and the defensive and battered "no" campaign has recovered some bounce. Hamlet's town is now a port awash with prosperous Danes in shell suits and Swedish

alcoholics who take the 15-minute ferry ride across the channel separating the two countries to buy cheap drink. A plump housewife in the laundrette by the Ophelia Grill delivered a characteristically Danish soliloquy on her doubts about European union. She was a reader of Hans Christian Andersen rather than Shakespeare. "We said that these emperors in Brussels didn't have any clothes. We did something good to the EC. We got countries to talk together. Maybe now we have a better Maastricht treaty. I voted 'no' last time, but I think I will vote 'yes' this time. Then," she added with a grin, "they won't make us vote again."

Danes struggle with the dilemma of balancing their pride and independence against their country's small size. Per Norgaard, who had been fishing in the waters below Hamlet's castle, gave a fatalistic shrug. "The EC is too big. How can the Greeks tell our parliament what to do? But we will probably say 'yes'."

Danes do not like being pushed around. Last year's "no" campaign swung the result by shrewdly exploiting blundering intimidation by outsiders telling Denmark to do its duty or face the consequences. The consequences turned out to be quite fun: the rest of the EC wrote footnotes to the treaty exempting Den-

mark from the bits Danes did not like and waited with ill-disguised impatience for last June's vote to be reversed. The Danish government claimed to have achieved a unique semi-detached status in the post-Maastricht EC. "To be and not to be, that is the answer," quipped Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the chirrupy Danish foreign minister at the time.

But the outside world has broken in again in the late stages of this year's campaign. The treaty's opponents have undermined the idea that the Danish opt-outs can be legally enforced. Martin Bange-mann, doubly unpopular as a Brussels commissioner and a German, insisted that the EC would become a federal union one day.

Coverage of the Belgian government's federalist plans for its tenure of the EC presidency this year created a fresh stir yesterday. In probably the most important tremor, Mr. Ellemann-Jensen reawoke the deeply disturbing subject of a Euro-army. Danes like Nato and detest the idea of being fused into a Euro-defence. But Mr. Ellemann-Jensen last week broke the politicians' agreed silence on the subject and said that Denmark should reconsider joining a European defence in 1996. The "yes" campaign began to look a little queasy. As the king remarks in *Hamlet*: "When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions."

Round the coast from Elsinore are the sorrowful and angry fishermen of Gilleleje who have plastered the wheelhouses of their boats with red, yellow and black stickers saying "nej". At Easter, the fishermen went on strike in protest at new and reduced Brussels catch quotas. Elio Nikolajsen, a retired deep-sea fisherman, points out the boat which has just been repossessed by the bank.

Once, EC membership brought security and income to the fleets of the common fisheries policy. Now the EC's attractions have faded. "Most fishermen will vote 'no'," Mr. Nikolajsen says. His reason for voting "no" this time has nothing to do with the bleak economics of cod fishing. "I don't trust the Germans. I over have." He voiced the timeless dilemma of Europe's small states.

Denmark's perpetual fear of forces beyond its control was captured by Hamlet: "Blest are those," he tells Horatio, "who are not a pipe for Fortune's finger to sound what stop she pleases."

Pope makes renewed attack on Mafia

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

IN HIS strongest denunciation of organised crime to date, the Pope concluded his tour of Sicily yesterday by again censuring the Mafia.

Addressing a group of young people in the grim city of Caltanissetta in the Sicilian interior, he said the Mafia "offends God". On Sunday, the Pope was clearly angry at the end of a Mass celebrated in the city of Agrigento. "The Sicilian people cannot always live under the pressure of a civilisation of death," he said. "God once said, 'Do not kill'. No human group, Mafia or whatever, can trample on this most sacred law of God."

Before the Pope began his pastoral visit to the island on Saturday, there had been wide criticism of the Catholic church for doing too little to combat the Mafia. Priests often tolerated Mafia as bastions against communism.



The Pope: nobody can trample on divine law

Kirghizia breaks with rouble zone

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

KIRGHIZIA yesterday became the first Central Asian former Soviet republic to leave the rouble zone and adopt its own currency. The move has far-reaching implications for the future of the region.

The new "som" banknotes, printed in London, can this week be exchanged for the rouble at a fixed rate of 200 roubles. From next week the som will be allowed to float against the rouble.

News agencies report that factory managements and workers are showing little enthusiasm for the new money. Elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, new currencies have relieved problems of inflation and cash shortages. At the same time, however, they have exacerbated the problems of payment for trade between republics.

Like all the former Soviet republics, Kirghizia was severely affected by the decline of the rouble. Inflation was last month estimated to be 36 per cent. A mainly agricultural republic sharing a border with China, Kirghizia has a population of 4.7 million. It has also been badly hit by a steep drop in subsidised goods from Russia and by the general chaos in the former Soviet trading system.

Tursunbek Chyngyshev, the prime minister, told parliament last month that "all our efforts to stop the economic recession have been fruitless because of our lack of control over money and credit emissions". He promised that a national currency would bring inflation down to 10 per cent a month.

If this fails to happen, it could be very dangerous for

President Akayev, the republic's leader. He is the only former president in Central Asia who does not stem from the old communist leadership and is highly regarded by Western diplomats for his commitment to the free market, democracy, and ethnic harmony.

Mr Akayev's prestige has, however, been undermined by economic hardship and by an outbreak of corruption, criminality and violence. Other Central Asian republics face similar problems although, with the exception of war-torn Tajikistan, they are not as severe as in Kirghizia. All the others have for now ruled out introducing their own currencies. With the rouble becoming increasingly worthless, however, they will presumably have to do so sooner or later.

At that point, one of the main factors keeping the Central Asian republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States would have vanished, and the region would have taken a big step towards a future separate from, and possibly hostile, to Russia.

□ Kiev: Strube Talbot, America's special envoy to the former Soviet Union, yesterday unveiled an economic and military package that has been designed to ensure Ukraine's future as a pro-Western, non-nuclear state (Robert Seely writes).

In a big charm offensive aimed at the Kiev government, he heralded a new policy by the Clinton administration towards the republic and offered America's services to act as an honest broker to safeguard against the breakdown of relations between Russia and Ukraine.

Yeltsin foe claims he was kidnapped

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

A HARDLINE communist opponent of President Yeltsin claimed yesterday to have been kidnapped and beaten by unknown assailants. The allegations are likely to raise political tensions in Moscow, after relief that opposition demonstrations on Sunday had passed off peacefully.

Viktor Anpilov, leader of the small Communist Workers' Party, said he and a party colleague were seized on Saturday and were left in a forest with their hands tied on Sunday. Yuri Tskhovrebatshvili said their captors took away documents and 300,000 roubles in party funds. They were seized by armed

men, blindfolded and taken to a house outside Moscow where, Mr Anpilov, said he was "cruelly and professionally beaten". The independent news agency Interfax said that Mr Anpilov does bear marks of a beating, and an official told Tass that he has broken fingers and bruising.

Mr Anpilov said they were seized soon after being questioned by the Moscow prosecutors' office about his role in organising an anti-Yeltsin demonstration on May 1, in which one policeman was killed and more than 500 people injured. According to Interfax, "Mr Anpilov believes that the kidnapping was carried out to frighten him, but he does not intend to give up the struggle." He called the attack the work of "a parallel state security structure which is not subject to the authorities or the constitution". Vladimir Isakov, a fellow hardliner, said he believed that the kidnapping was aimed at provoking violence on Sunday.

Western observers in Moscow are treating Mr Anpilov's claims with caution, since he is not regarded as a reliable source. However, since May 1 he has been the subject of harsh criticism from the Yeltsin camp, which has held him personally responsible for the violence that day. The riot

police have also been infuriated at the death of their colleague and at opposition suggestions that they were responsible for the violence.

Western journalists at the May Day demonstration reported seeing Mr Anpilov urging on the youths who attacked the police. Sunday's protest passed off peacefully because of a compromise on the route between the organisers and the pro-Yeltsin Moscow city authorities. However, Vassili Shakhnovsky, an official, accused the organisers of violating the agreement by marching to Red Square and raising inflammatory anti-Yeltsin banners.

Perseus defeated by smog after 439 years

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AUTHORITIES in Florence, alarmed by increasing pollution levels, have decided to substitute a copy for the statue of Perseus holding up a severed head of Medusa, the masterpiece by Benvenuto Cellini that has stood in the Piazza della Signoria for 439 years.

Before the copy is made the bronze statue, executed between 1545 and 1554, will be removed from its pedestal at the Loggia della Signoria for restoration from the effects of smog, according to the *Corriere della Sera*. The newspaper said the decision had been taken by the Ministry for Cultural Heritage but has not yet been made public because of the expected controversy. Professor Annamaria Petrioli, the curator of the Uffizi

Gallery, said that in such cases authorities were faced with a harsh choice. "Nobody likes to see a copy in the place of a masterpiece, but the situation has reached the point where there are only two possibilities: to leave the work in the open and watch it slowly destroyed or to save it and substitute it with a copy."

Professor Petrioli said officials had pondered the problem of Perseus in secrecy, for fear of public reaction. She pointed out that a copy need not be used for ever. "It is a reversible choice. If one day the levels of air pollution should fall... we could always decide to take it back into the piazza."

Florence already has a considerable collection of marble, bronze and plastic copies of works of art.

West battles to halt sacrifice of sea's 'sacred cows'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and the United States clashed yesterday over the future of commercial whaling, banned throughout the world for the past six years. Japan and Norway are the most important members of a group of countries pressing for the ban to be lifted.

In a blunt opening address to the five-day annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Masami Tanabu, the Japanese fisheries minister, accused Western nations of hypocrisy. He said hunting whales was no different from killing cows, pigs or chickens for food. The five-day conference is being held this year in Kyoto, Japan. Mr Tanabu said: "It is a matter of grave concern that a number of countries, notably

in the West, are taking the position of regarding the whales as the 'sacred cow' of the sea." He said all countries should respect each other's dietary habits and culture and called on the conference to rescind the ban, a move which would require the support of three-quarters of the commission's 39 members.

David Curry, the British fisheries minister, in a statement sent to the conference, warned Norway and Japan that if they resumed commercial whaling without international approval they would "face tough criticism and possible action by anti-whaling nations". He also told Norway that its application to join the European Community would be jeopardised. "Norway must realise that there is a ban on whale hunting in EC waters and on the trade in whale products, so if she is to join the EC, then

those rules will have to be adhered to," he said.

Mike Tillman, the United States representative at the conference, said Washington would "not support a resumption of commercial whaling, whether coastal or pelagic (in the high seas)". Neither the American public nor Congress would accept a lifting of the ban, he said.

Japan and Norway have the backing of Russia, Peru and four Caribbean countries, whose support the Japanese are accused of securing by offering development aid in exchange. They are not expected to be able to muster enough votes to lift the ban, but may be able to block a separate, French-sponsored proposal to demarcate the whole of the southern ocean, from the polar ice to 40 degrees south, into a permanent whale sanctuary. Japan and Norway argue



Curry: tells Norway of EC opposition

have threatened to catch up to 800 minke whales annually in the northeast Atlantic, with or without the whaling commission's approval.

Although the commission's own scientific committee accepts that minke stocks are abundant enough to be harvested, anti-whaling nations such as Britain say that the methods used to kill whales, which include explosives and electrified harpoons, are too cruel to be acceptable. They also maintain that there is no effective means of monitoring catch quotas.

Jan Arvesen, Norway's whaling commissioner, said yesterday that the IWC must stop ignoring the advice of its own scientific committee and face up to its responsibilities. "It is now or never for the IWC," he said, adding that Norway would review its position in the commission after the Kyoto meeting.

Landslide buries 200 villagers

Quito: At least 200 people were believed killed in a landslide in a remote area of southern Ecuador when a mountainside gave way and buried a goldmining village. Radio reports said as many as 200 houses were swept away as residents celebrated Mother's Day. No official toll is available because contact with the area is difficult, officials said. (Reuters)

UN accused

Mogadishu: Somali warlord General Muhammad Farrah Aidid accused Belgian troops of killing 60 Somalis in a clash in Kismayu. UN officials said his supporters had tried to advance on the town. (Reuters)

Workers perish

Bangkok: Hundreds of workers are feared to have perished when fire swept through a four-storey toy factory in Bangkok. Chuan Leekpai, the Thai prime minister, said. (Reuters)

Killer contest

Peking: A Chinese teenager who smoked non-stop for three hours in a village endurance contest in Henan province won the competition and immediately collapsed and died. (Reuters)

Fraise flambee

Bordeaux: French farmers stopped lorries and burnt 40 tonnes of Spanish strawberries in protest at falling prices and vowed to continue their action until their grievances had been addressed. (Reuters)

Hurd pressures US and Russia over troops for Bosnia

By George Brock and James Bone

BRITAIN and France yesterday counter-attacked against American pressure to lift the international arms embargo on Bosnia's Muslims by stepping up European pressure on America and Russia to send troops to the region.

Last night it emerged at the United Nations in New York that Washington appeared to be setting aside plans to lift the arms embargo and exploring the possibility of protecting the newly declared "safe areas" around Muslim enclaves and sending UN observers to police the Bosnian border with Yugoslavia.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told an EC foreign ministers meeting in Brussels that he supported French calls for American and Russian contributions to peacekeeping and humanitarian contingents which are now becoming overstretched as UN troops gradually reach more of the Muslim towns which have been under siege by the Bosnian Serbs. Mr Hurd made clear that American participation need not wait until a comprehensive peace plan was ready for implementation. "I think it would be welcome," he said.

United Nations diplomats said that soundings taken in Washington over the weekend indicated that the Clinton administration had backed away for the time being from pressing reluctant European allies into lifting the arms embargo on the Muslims. Washington appeared to be moving instead behind a Russian proposal, backed by European countries, to deploy United Nations observers on the border between Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to monitor the embargo declared by Belgrade on the Bosnian Serbs.

Mr Hurd and his French

The drive by President Clinton to arm the Muslims is being blocked by Europeans eager to see more peacekeepers on the ground

counterpart, M. Alain Juppé, lent their weight to calls for American commitment by Lord Owen, the EC peace negotiator, who reported recent developments to the ministers. British officials suggested that the tetchy transatlantic discussions over the next steps in Bosnia would be easier if American troops were working alongside British, French and Spanish soldiers on convoy duties.

"It is desirable that Americans should be present on the ground," a British official said. "There is a significant difference of view between those with people there and those who are spectators."

President Clinton and his advisers have been opposed to any American involvement on the ground and have pressed their allies to agree to lifting the arms embargo and to organise air raids on Serbian positions. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, toured European capitals last week but was rebuffed. British and French troops in Bosnia would be at immediate risk after air strikes. "They got some food for thought," said one official of the talks with Mr Christopher.

London and Paris are now pressing home their argument in Washington. One official pointed out that Americans could join the protection of humanitarian aid, help protect the six "safe areas" in and around six Muslim towns or contribute to monitoring of the closed border.

The confused policies of the nations hesitating over deeper intervention in Bosnia appear to revolve more and more around the consolidation of ceasefires in the six towns. The

shortage of troops to send to them is cited as one reason why American commitment would be welcome.

French military sources say that a handful of American servicemen are already in Srebrenica to guide the aircraft dropping food and medicines to the battered town. The presence of even a tiny number of Americans alongside 150 Canadians, the French conclude, helped insulate the town from bombardment.

Ministers agreed in principle that the EC would be prepared to contribute to a small group of civilian observers to check on Belgrade's decision to seal its border. They were told by Lord Owen that some traffic was crossing the frontier but that Serbian authorities had turned some vehicles back. Bosnian Serb militias rely heavily on fuel supplies from Serbia.

Chinnaya Gharekhan, a senior UN official, told security council members that there were 48 crossing points between the Serb-led rump of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and that each would require at least 10 UN observers.

Mr Christopher is due to visit New York for talks with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, tomorrow. Lord Owen told the EC ministers that some members of Serbia's government had now realised that nationalist politics were leading them nowhere. "They have ridden the very dangerous tiger of nationalism," he said. "There is evidence they are trying to get off. We must help them get off."

Clinton dilemma, page 14
Rosemary Righter, page 14

UN soldiers find 50 people in Muslim town of 10,000

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

UNITED Nations troops who entered the Muslim town of Zepa in eastern Bosnia yesterday found only 50 of the 10,000 people who had been in the town before the Serb offensive began last Tuesday. The rest had fled into the nearby hills.

The unit of 100 Ukrainian and 24 French troops entered the town to begin enforcing a UN "safe area", declared by the security council just days before the rebels launched their offensive, in which they

captured most of the surrounding Muslim enclave. On Wednesday, Captain Patrick Vanhoorebeke, the Belgian commander of the unit, had dismissed Muslim claims that the town was in imminent danger as a "disinformation campaign" by the Bosnians to provoke Western intervention. Yesterday, however, his group reported that most buildings in Zepa had been badly damaged by shelling and that bodies of civilians were lying in the streets.

apparently victims of a withering six-day Serb artillery attack. Ten bodies were found in a mosque that had been hit by shell-fire.

"It is a humanitarian catastrophe," said John McMillan, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Sarajevo. "It is obvious from the report that there was something to the Bosnian government's statements."

UN officials in New York had also played down the attacks, saying they had evidence suggesting the ferocity of fighting had been exaggerated. The UN has consistently underplayed the plight of Bosnian Muslims trapped in the few remaining eastern Bosnian towns not yet captured by the Serbs, and for many months stood in the way of requests by relief officials for air drops of food and medicine to these areas. It is now clear that the air drops, which began in March, probably saved the lives of thousands of trapped civilians.

In the last remaining enclave, Gorazde, UN relief officials who had visited the community, painted a favourable picture of conditions for the estimated 30,000 people trapped there. When a group of journalists hiked into the community, we found people fleeing to death in the mountains as they tried to get food for their families.



Changing of the guard: a Croat farmer passing a Warrior convoy of the 1st Battalion of the Prince of Wales's Yorkshire Regiment arriving at their UN base near Vitez yesterday to replace Cheshire Regiment forces

Croats agree to Mostar ceasefire

BY JOEL BRAND

REBEL Croats and the Bosnian government agreed to a ceasefire in the southwestern city of Mostar yesterday, after several days of intense fighting in which Croats attempted to secure strategic control of the regional centre.

The republic-wide ceasefire between the Bosnian army and Serbs also appeared to be continuing, though it will take a week to accurately gauge the commitment by the two sides to the UN-brokered truce.

Yesterday's ceasefire in Mostar followed a decrease in the level of fighting in the city, but there were outbreaks of lighter clashes to the north. The UN is concerned that fighting between rebel Croats and the mostly Muslim Bosnian army could once again erupt across central Bosnia.

United Nations Protection Force soldiers and UN relief officials confirmed Bosnian government reports that rebel Croats had "ethnically cleansed" some areas of Mostar and had taken several busloads of Muslim men to unknown destinations.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees officials reported that Croat militia men had assaulted a local UNHCR Muslim employee in front of international staff members. The UNHCR reported that none of its local Bosnian-Muslim staff were being allowed to cross Croat checkpoints erected around the city.

Earlier, UN forces had fled from the city because of the intensity of the fighting.

Milosevic uses blacklist to force acceptance of plan

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREYISAN IN BELGRADE

BOSNIAN Serb leaders have been banned from entering Serbia as Belgrade seeks to force them to accept the Vance-Owen peace plan. Biljana Plavcic, a Bosnian Serb leader, said she was told by border police on Sunday that she and other leaders were on a blacklist. She, however, slipped into Serbia and denounced the move.

Although the federal interior ministry of rump Yugoslavia is responsible for border controls, it said yesterday that it had no knowledge of any ban. The tighter controls have come as President Milosevic of Serbia continues to exact his revenge on the Bosnian Serbs whose assembly defied his demand last week to agree to the peace plan. Since then he has issued decrees cutting all aid to the Bosnian Serbs, except for humanitarian relief and medical supplies.

Belgrade's action now appears to be far tougher than originally announced. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said in a telephone interview from his headquarters in Pale that he was "saddened" rather than angered by the travel ban.

The authorities in Belgrade have also begun orchestrating a campaign to bring Serbs behind their government's decision to support the peace plan. Newspapers are now discussing what Belgrade has condemned as the "unmodest" lifestyle of Bosnian Serb leaders when they arrive in the Serbian capital.

On Sunday, the self-appointed Bosnian Serb assembly framed the questions to be asked in the referendum that it is to hold on the Vance-Owen plan. The first question will ask voters whether they accept the peace plan, to which few

doubt that the answer will be a resounding no.

The second question asks whether in the case of the failure of the plan, the self-declared Bosnian Serb Republic should have the right "to unite with other people's and republics". This is bound to be accepted and will mandate Bosnian Serb leaders to demand union with Serbia and Serb-held areas in Croatia. It also leaves open the possibility of a Bosnian confederation, which is precisely what they have always demanded.

Dr Karadzic and President Tudjman of Croatia favour a confederation of three independent Muslim, Serb and Croat republics. While this would preserve the facade of an internationally recognised Bosnian state, it offers a later option of Serb and Croat secessions to form a greater Serbia and a greater Croatia.

Sex claims may unseat senator

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ACCUSATIONS of sexual misconduct were yesterday the focus of an unprecedented attempt to unseat a member of the US Senate.

Senator Robert Packwood, a Republican from Oregon, has been named by nearly two dozen women, former employees and acquaintances, as making unwanted sexual advances over the past 20 years. He has apologised to the women but is now fighting claims that he is unqualified to serve.

The battle is being waged in hearings of the Rules Committee, which is considering a petition from 250 Oregon voters that Mr Packwood should be expelled from the Senate for misrepresentation during last year's election.

The voters say Mr Packwood defrauded them in the run-up to polling day on three points by lying to *The Washington Post*, which was investigating the women's allegations, by lying to Oregon reporters who asked him about the *Post's* investigation, and by threatening to expose embarrassing personal details about some of the women

unless they kept silent. His defence is that if the Senate enters uncharted legal terrain, nearly every member of Congress will be obliged to quit.

Several years ago, Mr Packwood probably would never have been challenged, but the atmosphere on Capitol Hill has changed dramatically since the sexual harassment hearings involving Clarence Thomas, the supreme court justice, and Anita Hill.

Mr Packwood faces another hearing before the Ethics Committee, in which his foes will also seek his expulsion.

Army-backed candidate defies pundits to surge ahead in Paraguay poll

By Gabriella Giamini

INITIAL counting by the Paraguayan electoral tribunal yesterday gave Juan Carlos Wasmosy, a construction tycoon and candidate of the ruling Colorado party, a clear lead in the race to become the first civilian democratically elected president since the country became independent.

Although several opinion pollsters disagreed until yesterday afternoon on who had won Sunday's presidential election, Paraguay's media also declared that Señor Wasmosy had won a majority of 40 per cent over opposition candidates, the projected winners before voting began. They also predicted that the election would give the Colorado party a clear majority in the congress and the senate.

Final official results were expected late last night, but the electoral tribunal had promised to release definite results

earlier. Its failure to do so indicated that they could be further delayed.

"Nothing can cloud the clarity and brilliance of this legitimate electoral victory," Señor Wasmosy told a crowd, already celebrating with firecrackers, shortly after the polling booths closed on Sunday afternoon.

According to most predictions, Guillermo Caballero Vargas, the independent National Unity candidate who had been expected to win, polled only 28 per cent of votes. Domingo Laino, the centre-left Authentic Liberal Radical party candidate, captured 26 per cent.

However, both opposition candidates claimed that the results had been rigged by the Colorados, who have ruled Paraguay without opposition for 46 years, and they refused to concede. Before the elections, the majority of opinion polls showed that most Paraguayans wanted to break away from the one-party military rule that had characterised the Colorado party's period in office. The results so far announced contradict these projections and have provoked the widespread accusations of electoral fraud that have been shared by Señor Caballero Vargas and Señor Laino.

The Colorado party is often associated with the brutal 34-year dictatorship of General Alfredo Stroessner, who staged a string of rigged elections in which he never allowed the participation of opposition parties. He in turn was toppled in a coup by President Rodríguez, then a senior cavalry officer, in 1989.

General Rodríguez has declared that he will be handing over power to Señor Wasmosy, whom he backed. He received him at his home in Asunción even before polling booths had closed on Sunday and declared that, as his successor, he would be taking office as president in August.

If all the pre-election forecasts were indeed wrong, the Colorado party, which has dominated Paraguayan politics for nearly half a century, will have a further five years in power. Opposition candidates had also been expected to win a majority in the senate. Although it seems that the Colorado party may have a parliamentary majority as well, it is still uncertain what kind of future government Paraguay will have.

"The Colorado party had a hold on every sector of society. People seem to say they want a change. But perhaps such a radical change was too much to ask and the official party indicated several times it would do anything to keep a hold on power," according to Josephina Fernández, of the Council of Churches, a leading human rights organisation.



Marked for success: Juan Carlos Wasmosy shows his inked finger after casting his vote in Asunción

Paraguay, a land-locked, agricultural country with a population of 4.6 million, is the last South American nation to make the transition to a democratic regime after decades of military dictatorships.

Members of the Organisation of American States who were in Paraguay to monitor the elections said that the polling had been peaceful overall, despite a few violent incidents between opposing supporters.

in which three people were killed. They said that voting had been fair, but they criticised the confusion which ensued.

The opposition, however, condemned a decision by the Colorado party government to seal all borders to Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia before polling in order to stop thousands of voters who work abroad from turning up at polling stations. The opposition parties were known to have wide support among these voters.

Jimmy Carter, the former American president who headed one of the teams of foreign observers, said he did not believe there had been serious cases of fraud.

He told reporters, however, that he thought the interruption of the telephone service to an independent consultancy being used by the observers to monitor results "was not accidental".

Mafia Caruso sings to FBI tune

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

New York's best one-man show this season is playing a long way off Broadway.

Before full houses in dingy, heavily guarded courtrooms in central Manhattan and Brooklyn, Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano, 47, the highest-ranking Mafia defector in American history, is busily implicating his former associates in murder, drug-running and extortion.

In his rasping voice, the thick-set well-dressed gangster admits to taking part in at least 19 murders before he turned his back on what he likes to call his "lifestyle". Arrested in December 1990 together with John "The Dapper Don" Gotti, head of the powerful Gambino crime family, Gravano decided to break the Mafia code of silence and spill the beans on his former boss.

In return for his help in convicting Gotti and his promise to testify against other members of the New York family, Gravano received a relatively light 20-year sentence which, with remission for good behaviour, should ensure that, unlike Gotti, he will spend his old age at home — albeit under FBI protection. Since his conviction he has been the star witness in a series of trials as the FBI tries to break the New York Mafia.

So far Gravano's testimony has helped secure convictions of three important Mafia members and promises to be decisive in five more cases. "I believe La Cosa Nostra is falling apart," he says dryly.

Once announced by Gotti as his successor as "boss of bosses", Gravano is a beguiling character who has embraced the role of Mafia turncoat with unusual enthusiasm. Under cross-examination recently, he admitted that he had been studying for his part by reading the biographies of such other famous Mafia informers as Phil "Crazy Phil" Leonetti, Nick "Nick the Crow" Caramandi, and James "Jimmy the Weasel" Fratturo.

"I read as much as I could read about them," he said. "Anything I could get my hands on. I was in the life and I thought it was like any other trade. I thought it would be best to know as much as possible about everything."

Gravano has studied his role as Mafia songbird so well that the press has dubbed him "The Enrico Caruso of mob informers". His testimony offers insights into the Mafia that only a Hollywood screenwriter could otherwise provide. For instance, a Mafia hit-man can shoot someone, but it is "disrespectful" to lock the corpse in the face. Or, "We don't kill strangers. We kill people around us."

Most recent targets of his testimony have been members of the Gambino clan. Thomas Gambino, son of the former godfather, is charged with loan-sharking and illegal gambling. John and Joseph Gambino, his cousins, are accused of running a heroin ring.

Their lawyers are patently unhappy at having to face testimony from the man who was once No. 2 in the self-same crime family. Thomas Gambino's attorney describes Gravano as a "serial killer" and insists: "He can't be relied on to tell the truth." The courts, however, apparently think otherwise.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

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CONTINUING FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Mistress of the dramatic art

Not a natural orator, she learnt to command a huge audience seemingly without effort

When I first began working for Mrs Thatcher on a regular basis one of the first things I put to her was "Politics is a form of theatre." As with a theatrical performance, the need is to grip, entertain, persuade and, when necessary, move a body of people who receive and react to what they are hearing collectively. Listening to a speech with others, like listening to a play, is not the same as reading a book in bed.

"But I'm not a performer, dear."

"Not yet." Although she began by insisting that she was not an actress Mrs Thatcher came gradually to accept the analogy with theatre. She also went along with Gordon Reece's view that for speech-making purposes her voice — a kind of high-pitched alto in the early days — was not her greatest asset and readily agreed to help from a coach from the National Theatre. Once convinced it was necessary, she submitted herself to instruction like a beginner and by the time she was prime minister her public voice had come down nearly half an octave and she had become a most powerful advocate of all she believed in. As the years went by, her range extended still further until, if she felt inclined, she could produce an impressive baritone, which if you weren't expecting it could be quite alarming.

My position was informal. I had no regular hours, no defined duties, no office. I worked on early drafts at home. When a date was set for a speech session, I would go to Number Ten and work with the PM and the other writers in her study or the flat or one of the dining rooms or the Cabinet Room. Policy was not the writer's concern but if he is to do it justice a speechwriter needs to believe in what he is helping to promote. Writing to order, in disbelief, is something I could never have learnt to hack.

As writers, we had areas of special interest. One of mine was economy of words. It seemed to me that politicians talked too much. Not necessarily too often, though that too at times, but in too many sentences, with too many paragraphs and sub-paragraphs and subsidiary clauses that may read well but do not speak well when you are addressing the nation or the Commons or the party conference. Once you're into a speech there are no intervals.

In earlier centuries rolling periods with plenty of flourish occasionally produced a rhetorical masterpiece. Not so today. Write it tight and taut, I told myself. Go for short sentences with plenty of full stops. It's a woman you're writing for so give her time to breathe. Also, when possible accentuate the positive. People don't want to be talked into a depression, they may be living one.

A major political speech, whether at home or abroad, is what cabaret artists call "special material". In Mrs Thatcher's case it was as custom-built as her wardrobe. As I saw it, she needed to be as feminine as possible, but with a commanding presence.



Rousing the faithful: the preparations for the leader's annual conference speech were an utterly exhausting, infuriating but fascinating process

Where Ted, once he became prime minister, forgot most of what he had learnt about communication, Margaret steadily improved. The strength and power of her delivery developed, with time and an unrivalled experience of the political scene worldwide.

Living over the shop, as modern prime ministers do, has many advantages. With Mrs Thatcher, if it was an all-day session there was lunch and often dinner in the flat for the speechwriters. This invariably consisted of coronation chicken or shepherd's pie, coronation chicken or lasagne, coronation chicken or beef stroganoff. (There were moments when I thought: One more coronation chicken and I'll turn Republican.)

There was white or red wine, sweet or cheese or both, coffee and mints and elaborate boxes of chocolates from Mrs Thatcher's admirers. Chocolates were her only visible weakness which she battled against like the warrior she was. It was almost the only substantive fight she lost, apart from the last.

Amazingly there is no resident cook in the prime minister's official home (state dinners are supplied by outside caterers) so meals were prepared and served with skill and dispatch by one or two of the secretaries.

The prime minister bustled about, making sure that everyone was properly fed, urging second helpings, clearing one course to make way for another and if necessary helping to wash

up afterwards. The informality of it all was a constant astonishment. It was Flood Street revisited or as I imagined Grantham. The lady's own appetite was small, I could only assume this was due to the chocolates or that she had some internal machine which manufactured calories automatically.

The Thatcher method was to be involved personally in all major speeches from the beginning at virtually every stage of their development. She was there with the writers in the study or the dining room or round the Cabinet table so there was no backstage editing. Objections were voiced in the open and accepted or rejected on the spot.

The result was she had a firm grip on the theme from the outset and could steer it in such a way that differences of opinion could be ironed out in her presence as soon as they surfaced.

In the Reagan-Thatcher era, where the two leaders' political beliefs were close, those beliefs came about by very different routes. In my experience, a Thatcher speech was more often not enhanced by the additions, subtractions, insertions, deletions, cuts, rewrites and rewrites of rewrites to which it was subjected. The reason, I'm sure, was that, taking place in her presence, one could either fight them at once before they took root or surrender gracefully to someone else's inspiration. Despite the diversity of input the final draft, delivered by a single voice, really did sound in the end as though it was the product of a single mind. Take my word for it.

Her foreign affairs adviser, Charles Powell's description of "useful techniques" for anyone involved in a Thatcher speech can't be bettered. "Never put anything worthwhile in the first draft, it will be rejected," wrote Charles. "Keep the structure for the second draft, the first will inevitably be condemned as not having one. Have the collected works of Rudyard Kipling to hand. Don't even try to draft a paragraph until you are right up against the time-limit, because they are always revised right down the line. Be ready to stay up till six in the morning on the day of delivery if necessary." Ah yes, I remember it well.

The conference speech — the highlight and last of the political year — was unique. Whichever I was asked how it got written I would say, "I don't know. In fact I am in a constant state of amazement that the conference speech ever does get written." I also have to say I don't know how the final draft of the conference speech, the result of several Long Days' Journeys into Night was ever said to be the final draft.

The pressure of time, as the week sped by, governed everything. In the end, nothing dramatic occurred to signal victory. No white smoke went up to the waiting hacks or an astonished world to announce that, every sane prediction to the contrary, the leader of the Conservative party and, since 1979, prime minister of the United Kingdom had a speech and indeed to prove

this remarkable thing that had happened against all the odds would actually deliver it at precisely 2.30 pm on the final day. It just sort of... debouched. We the writers, also sort of debouched, usually just before lunch on THE DAY, some of us haggard and ghostly pale, some of us in need of a bath and a shave, all more or less semi-conscious, semi-triumphant and a little wiser or a little less.

That said, anyone who participated in Mrs Thatcher's annual party conference speech, which was a killer, was hooked for life or what remained of it. There was something compulsive about the agony, the despair and lack of sleep, the sheer impossibility that a coherent sequence of words and thoughts and images and policies could ever emerge, the excitement when a faint glimmer of hope appeared on the horizon, and finally the lady's inevitable triumph.

We wordsmiths fought the same battle year in, year out, armed only with a well-chewed Biro. But let me be clear. The lady was the driving force behind the speech, its coronary artery was hers. Her views, her opinions, her kind of language and her guidance were behind every contentious syllable.

In the final 24 hours it became my self-imposed task to check for audience reaction, making sure we had the order right, the light and shade in balance, creating a deliberate piece of theatre, carefully paced with a powerful climax. By the time we reached the autocue rehearsal she would ask me to read this or that

passage aloud. "Let me hear it as you would say it," I would point out that only bad or bold directors gave inflections to the star, that she was now sufficiently experienced to trust her own intonations, but she would insist so, begging her not to copy me, I would do as she asked.

Margaret was not a natural orator, but growing skill in timing and sheer authority of manner made her a speaker who could command a huge audience seemingly without effort. In fact she did it, like all true professionals, by taking enormous pains.

Whatever the mood of conference, in her keynote address on the final afternoon she would lift the party with a bravura display that roused the faithful to fever pitch and sent them home, refreshed and reinvigorated, to carry the fight to the constituency doorsteps.

There was no high-flown rhetoric or sudden revelations, just a passionate belief in her personal vision that had the combined effect of "Land of Hope and Glory", the national anthem and "Jerusalem". She knew this audience, they were her people. She spoke their language as no one else and year after year she gave them the reassurance they craved.

She was, throughout those unique October annuals beside the seaside, meticulous and troublesome and pernickety and splendid and the whole extraordinary process never ceased to fascinate and infuriate and I wouldn't have missed the privilege of being a part of it for half-a-dozen smash hits.

Blast to shake the world

Mrs Thatcher only narrowly escaped

In the early morning of October 12, 1984, I was in the sitting room of the prime minister's suite in the Grand Hotel, Brighton. The final draft of the Conservative party conference speech was agreed and we gathered our papers. I glanced out of the windows at the promenade. All was quiet and still, the sea calm. It was coming up to 3.10 am.

When the other writers had gone, leaving only John Gummer, who was chairman of the party at the time, and myself, I saw the prime minister still tinkering with the text of the speech as Robin Butler, the private secretary, came in. I said, "Do go to bed, dear. It's all right, I promise you."

She said, "I'm going," and put the speech down. "I just have this one paper to sign for Robin."

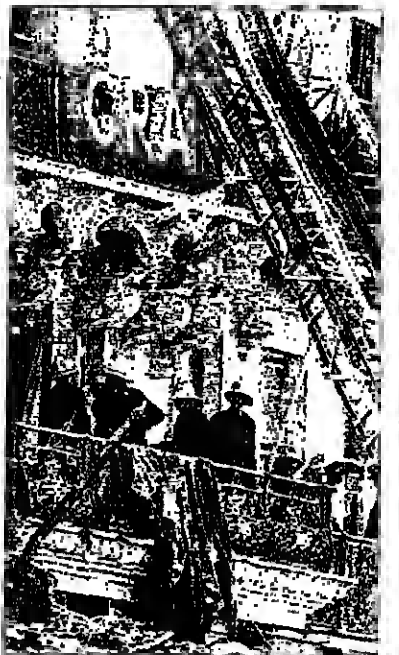
I went out, waved goodnight to the secretaries in the room immediately opposite and made my way along the corridor. As I started up the staircase to my room on the floor above, there was a violent explosion. I was flung against the wall and down a few steps. My briefcase went flying and burst open, scattering the contents in all directions.

All I could think of was, "My God! The speech!" That people might be dying and that in any case there were at least a dozen copies in the secretaries' room did not enter my mind. I went down on my hands and knees, feverishly gathering the scattered pages of the final draft and shovelling them into my briefcase. I hobbled back down the corridor, bruised and shaken.

There were no cries for help, just clouds of dust, followed by the occasional crunch of falling masonry. Otherwise silence. It was eerie.

As I approached, the prime minister came out of her sitting room, crossed the corridor and went into the secretaries' room opposite. When I followed she was sitting on an upright chair, very still. The girls were standing on chairs peering out of a side window, bubbling with excitement. I stood, quiet as a stone.

At length, she murmured, "I think that was an assassination attempt. don't you?" I decided it was rhetorical. It was clear that a bomb had gone off.



Bomb tally: the Grand's aftermath

later acknowledged to be the work of the IRA. This year, I had been given a room on the same side of the hotel as the prime minister's suite, directly in line overhead but five floors up. In the past, I had always been along the corridor from her suite on the same floor, as I had to be in and out of my room for reference books and notebooks and the lift was constantly in use, which would have meant time wasted.

On arrival, I protested to the hotel reception, who said they were sorry but the rooms had been fixed by Central Office, who had, as usual, been instructed to give priority to the officials of the party and their wives. I had continued to remonstrate until Tim Bell and Gordon Reece, who happened to be near and heard what was going on, said, "Leave it to us." Evidently they pulled the right strings, because my room had been changed to one on the floor above the PM's but on the other side of the staircase.

The switch almost certainly saved my life, for the bomb had been a delayed-action device planted in the sixth-floor bathroom immediately above the room that would have been mine.

Two days later I received the following note:

10 DOWNING STREET

24 October 1984

Ronnie dear,

Just to say thank you for being with us at Brighton — an experience that will remain with us for the rest of our lives and which has cost our friends so dear.

Margaret Robin Butler coming into her sitting room at the hotel with a last-minute paper for her to sign. Had he not delayed her, she would have been in the bathroom, on her way to the bedroom at the moment the bathroom suffered a direct hit. It was the most blessed of all her strokes of luck.

TOMORROW

Mrs Thatcher and the BBC: Ronald Miller's inside account from A View from the Wings (Weidenfeld £18.99) © Sir Ronald Miller 1993

Why are there too few women professors at Britain's top universities. Are women simply not up to the academic mark?

Playing fast and loose with women at Oxford

So women are about to be short-changed once again: dealt a poor hand in the poker game of life or (choose your metaphor) condemned to draw the eternal short straw in even the most civilised of professional callings. Or are they? Oxford university is too treacherous a symbol for its own good. A clasp of all that is most venerable and elite in British higher education, it was bound to become — along with Cambridge — the chief target for storming by equal opportunities activists. The first truly was student admissions policies which, by any account, were traditionally unfair.

Having for years accepted mediocre students on a quota basis from favoured public schools, Oxford has now simply inverted this prejudice by turning away good private school candidates and handing out easy offers to mediocre pupils from state schools. Thus the form of corruption is thought to have been corrected by adopting another. It seems not to have occurred to anyone that the best way to cancel an unfair distribution of favours is simply to become — as justice should always be — blind and dishonest.

Now another campaign front has opened. Promotion prospects for women at the ancient universities have become a more noticeable

ably contentious issue since the almost complete extinction of women's colleges. Girls educated at single sex residential colleges had little difficulty with role models. Some of the most influential academic women in the English-speaking world walked a clearly defined path through a separate but equally prestigious set of exclusively female institutions: North London Collegiate School followed by Girton, say, or St Paul's Girls' School followed by Somerville. With dissolution of that independence and the leaving of almost all the colleges with a co-educational gender mix, women academics have lost their own territory. Thus the women of Oxford are forced to become shrill and legalistic in the fight for what they regard — indeed, what the law may regard but that remains to be tested — as a fair crack at the top jobs.

This latest eruption has all the arcane accoutrements of univer-

sity politics: the inscrutably titled General Board of Faculties has handed down its decision to Congress — a body which includes all members of the university and is therefore so vast as to be both unwieldy and susceptible to infinite lobbying. The substance of the board's pronouncement is that the whole amount of money budgeted by the university for new posts is to be used to create professorships rather than readerships which are normally the next step up the ladder from lecturer to professor is very unusual, and because there are far more women lecturers than readers, this edict virtually guarantees that very few women will be promoted this year. By using the money

allotted (only £100,000 in total) solely for professorships, say the protesters, the university is removing the bridge which might have lifted many more women from the bottom of the academic

pecking order. An arguable point even if it does have a note of raucous impatience about it.

After all, with so many young women lecturers coming in at the bottom, there would surely be, in time, many more women readers who could then vie for professorships in the usual way. What the current agitation demands is improvement in the ratios right now: that is, they want to upgrade the status of women immediately.

Short of reversing their decision, what some of the campaigners would like to see is for the

general board actively to encourage women to apply for these professorship grades regardless of their low present positions. And, more controversially, to advise departments that support for candidates should not depend on existing seniority but on outstanding achievement "relative to stage of career". Sympathetic as I am, both as a woman and a former academic who coped with as much misogyny as anyone, I find this argument deeply disturbing. Presumably, no particular individual woman for whom that matter would expect to leap-frog over more senior colleagues in this way, especially if that precarious bound could only be accomplished by obvious handicapping of the competition. So why should an entire category of people be given such specialised propulsion? Simply because they are, at the moment, not registering enough of a presence at the top of their profession? But perhaps that is for a complex of reasons, some

of them to do with male prejudice and others to do with the fact that women really do behave differently (which brings us back to the importance of all-female institutions). At any rate, the matter is worth examining and not simply obscuring by bouncing women up the hierarchy over the understandably resentful heads of more experienced senior staff.

What complicates this matter all the more is that offending against the Sex Discrimination Act requires no deliberate intent: one can be in breach of the law simply by imposing a condition for promotion which happens to impact unfavourably against women, even if no such disadvantage was intended. So even if Oxford is, in all honesty, attempting to make itself blind to all forms of prejudice, it may actually be breaking the law: a curious state of affairs which academics of both sexes ought to be questioning with some rigour. Women in a hurry to gain the highest ground in academic life have to overcome a good many obstacles not the least of which is their own ambivalence. But they ought to be wary of it. In the rush, they find themselves playing fast and loose with the intellectual integrity which that life is supposed to be about.



JANET DALEY

UPPER 1250

Something nasty down on the farm

The countless dangers of the countryside often catch the city dweller unawares



DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Although Browning may have longed to be in England in April, it is in May when the countryside is at its best. This spring seems to have been more colourful and luxuriant than ever. But do not be misled by the countryside's beauty and tranquillity into underestimating the dangers lurking there.

One of the periodic battles over the use of pesticides is at present being waged. Peter Hain, the Labour MP for Neath, is championing the cause of a group of farmers and farm workers who claim to have been poisoned by sheep dips. Similar reports from such places as far apart as Caithness, Wiltshire, Yorkshire, Dorset and Hereford & Worcester have prompted the setting up of an all-party group to study the situation. Meanwhile, the Law Society has granted legal aid to more than 20 farmers for their action against manufacturers of sheep dip.

Sheep have been dipped since the 19th century but, as with other insecticides, sheep dip, which is classified as a veterinary medicine, became truly effective only once the potent organo-phosphorus chemicals were introduced. Developed in Germany in 1939, the rest of the world lost no time in capitalising on the captured knowledge after the second world war. Spraying is now as much part of the rural calendar as drilling or harvesting.

But as well as being lethal to insects, the organo-phosphorus chemicals are potentially dangerous to people, and are now being phased out. In retrospect, the jolly family parties which accompanied sheep dipping 35 years ago on my father-in-law's farm were totally irresponsible, and today those attending sheep dipping are dressed not in schoolboy shorts but in full protective clothing. Strict precautions are recommended for the 300,000 people involved in dipping each year.

Despite the numbers involved, the latest published figures show that the National Poisons Unit was notified of only 34 cases of poisoning during the 1991 sheep dipping season. In three of these cases, the poisoning followed accidents in which 15, no protective clothing was used. Details of the circumstances leading to the other cases were not recorded. Since the symptoms — headache, joint aches and pains and excessive fatigue — are similar to those characterising a large number of human viral diseases and such ill-defined complaints as post-viral fatigue syndrome, ME and neurasthenia, it is hard to quantify the problems encountered with sheep dipping.

Some 500 chemicals are now used in farming. Surprisingly, each is tested more thoroughly before being introduced than it would be if it were a drug prescribed by doctors. Used carefully, their introduction has been beneficial. Without pesticides, 30 per cent of the harvest would be lost before it is reaped, and a further 30 per cent during storage.

If agricultural chemicals were as damaging and carcinogenic as



Tread warily: the breathtaking beauty of some parts of Britain, such as Symonds Yat in the Forest of Dean, can lure visitors into a false sense of security

some people suppose, it might well be thought that contaminations of the food chain would be causing rates of cancer of the stomach to increase. On the contrary, since the advent of pesticides and preservatives, the incidence of cancer of the stomach has been falling steadily.

A possible explanation is that many of the diseases which the pesticides control would, if left unchecked, produce potent carcinogens. Some of the fungi, for instance, which can grow on food are particularly lethal.

Nobody, doctor or layman, would deny that pesticides can trigger or exacerbate allergic diseases, asthma, hay fever or eczema. But although the proportion of the population which suffers allergies is rising, it is growing fastest in the towns. It seems that industrial pollution rather than farm chemicals are the greater hazard.

Farmers are those who are most at risk from the pesticides, none more so than Canadian farmers who spray widely to produce their even crops. A study of 70,000 Saskatchewan farmers has shown that since spraying became established, there has been no increase in cases of cancer in general or lymphoma (cancer of lymphatic system which might be expected to act as a marker for malignancies) in particular.

Visitors to the country are ready to accept a runny nose, even a slight wheeze, swallow their antihistamines, Triludan, Zivtek or Claritin, and feel that if this is the only price which has to be paid to escape the urban turmoil it is worth it. However, hidden behind the hedged thick with cow parsley lurk a myriad of dangers. The country may be the weekenders' play-

ground but, as David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, has reminded us this week, it is a farmer's factory floor. Incidentally, machinery on this particular shop floor kills about 60 people a year.

Animals grazing in the meadows complete the picture of rural bliss, but they suffer, carry and attract diseases which can be transmitted to people. Trailing a hand in the water of a slow-running stream may, for instance, be all that is needed to catch Weil's disease, a liver and kidney disease spread by rats' urine. An inappropriately sited picnic site may result in a bite from a tick which has fallen from cattle or deer and can cause the casual picnicker months of ill-health with arthritis and even meningitis or heart disease from Lyme's disease.

The chance of developing Weil's disease or Lyme's disease is remote, but the misuse of pesticides is an ever-present danger for the rural community, particularly children. The toxicity of pesticides is falling but, even so, 2,000 children a year are admitted to hospital for treatment following accidental exposure from farm or garden chemicals. Fortunately for the past 20 years there have been no deaths. Twenty or 30 fatal adult cases are almost invariably due to self-poisoning.

When confronted by a patient who thinks he has been exposed to farm chemicals, doctors cannot be expected to know the treatment for 500 different chemicals. But the farmer and the transporter of the chemical has details of the pesticide which include the correct first aid and medical antidotes. The same information is on the chemical container. The doctor should also telephone his local poison information service for further advice.

Alternatives have reduced need for gynaecological operations

Time to scrap the 'scrape'

A dramatic increase in the number of Caesarian section operations has led to a call in the House of Commons to "protect women from the scalpel". The plea could also apply to the high rate of "D and C" surgery.

The tried and tested "scrape", or "D and C" (dilatation and curettage), is still the investigation of choice of many gynaecologists. But as Ian Mackenzie, a consultant gynaecologist at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, says, while this is appropriate in some clinical situations, the D and C as a diagnostic tool for premenopausal women can no longer be justified.

The conclusion of a recent study by Angela Coulter *et al* published in the *British Medical Journal* was that young women suffering from heavy periods are still being subjected to unnecessary and inappropriate operations.

Newer endometrial sampling techniques are simple, quick, reliable and well-tolerated by patients. They can be performed in the out-patient clinic and dispense with the need for a general anaesthetic and for a one or two-day stay in hospital.

Endometrial sampling involves inserting an instrument via the vagina into the uterus, without needing to dilate the cervix first. Light suction from the instrument gives a small sample of tissue from

the wall of the uterus (the endometrium). The whole process takes less than ten minutes.

The biopsy is then looked at by pathologists to determine the cause of the menorrhagia (heavy or irregular menstrual bleeding). Most importantly, major endometrial disease, such as cancer of the uterus — although very rare in young women — can be excluded.

A study in 1988 (when the D and C was the most commonly performed operation in Britain) revealed that out-patient endometrial sampling could be successfully used to investigate 97 per cent of women with persistent abnormal menstrual bleeding. Of the 247 women in the study, 15 cases of cancer were detected, and at the five-year follow-up, no malignancies had been missed.

Performed by well-trained hands, out-patient endometrial sampling therefore provides an excellent and reliable alternative to the D and C. And with added advantages. For example, it has none of the risks associated with a general anaesthetic, and does not risk trauma to the cervix which occasionally occurs with D and C, especially in women who have not yet had children, and which may predispose them to miscarriage in the future.

In the United States, the use of

D and C has dropped dramatically over the past 15 years. In Britain, the rates have remained surprisingly (and frustratingly) static. The D and C is now six times more common here than in America.

With so many advantages both to patients and the health service budget, why are British gynaecologists so slow to bring in the changes?

Part of it may simply be that old habits die hard, or a reluctance by British specialists to accept that the newer techniques are as reliable. From a purely practical point of view, reorganisation of out-patient clinics may be necessary in order to provide more suitable facilities — not an impossible task. However, with the advent of the purchaser-provider split in the new-style NHS, it may be financial incentives which prompt action.

When Ms Coulter, deputy director of the Health Services Research Unit in Oxford, presented her findings to the gynaecological section of the Royal Society of Medicine, she was met by a room full of embarrassed faces.

Ultimately, it may be up to the female "customers" in Britain to demand present practices to be updated and improved. It is time to scrap the "scrape".

DR ABI BERGER

Macho — and a menace

Surely the time has come for us to stop teaching our boys to be men

I was sent to a British boarding school in the bad old days. It was a sort of paramilitary training: cold baths, beatings and rigger. The whole system seemed to be geared to teaching boys to be a MAN. It was not called a cult of machismo, but that is what it was. When one looks around the cultures of the world you can see it almost everywhere.

Look at the extraordinary emphasis we place upon sport in our schools: especially physically dangerous team sports that might have been designed to produce well disciplined team-spirited soldiers. I am not surprised that a study of American soldiers who committed atrocities in the Vietnam War revealed that all had been fond of, and active in, team sports.

Britain seems particularly afflicted by this macho hangover. Everywhere you see T-shirted louts, covered with tattoos, reeking of machismo. What is the purpose of this posturing? These are pathetic and outdated figures: zombies from the past: yesterday's men with nothing constructive to do.

Britain leads the world in football hooliganism and in the production of mercenary soldiers. Many of the hundreds of teenage criminals I assessed in Oxford were motivated by the machismo cult. Some had fathers who beat them, taught them to "fend for themselves", praised them for being aggressive. But schools, too, are to blame. There is this obsession with sport despite the many serious injuries sport causes. If a teacher hits a boy on the head causing concussion, all hell breaks loose. But if the teacher organises a game of football or cricket and the same injury occurs then everyone takes it as normal.

We don't know how many children are killed or seriously injured in school sports every year because nobody dares to raise the issue. Macho sport is a sacred cow. It is batty, for example, that one of the six foundation subjects in schools is physical education — it is almost a contradiction in terms anyway.

A boy was killed at one of my schools by a cricket ball. At another, many went to hospital suffering from concussion following head injuries in sport: with such head trauma cases there is the risk of brain damage and death.

People will say, "Well you mustn't mollycoddle children. You can't wrap them in cotton-wool". And "Sport is a healthy way to release aggression." But there is no conclusive evidence for such a claim. Compulsory violent sports should be prohibited in schools. I am not necessarily opposed to team spirit but I am against the implied encouragement of machismo.

Of course, there are varieties of machismo. There are a range of qualities traditionally identified as being "manly" and some are far less objectionable than others. But it is the idea, especially prevalent in small groups of young males, that they have to prove their manhood by breaking the law or being destructive or by being violent that is at the root of many of our society's problems. No one should have to prove their manhood in a modern society, but if they do then they should be able to prove it by being kind and unselfish.

RICHARD RYDER

● The author is a psychologist. This is extracted from his lecture given to the RSA in London yesterday.

Please keep your troubles to yourself

Are problems being exacerbated because we are so ready to share them? Perhaps we would all be better off repressing painful memories

The case of Susan Bolland, who was dismissed from her job at Barnardo's after her 22-year-old daughter disclosed during counselling for depression that her mother had sexually abused her as a child, has once again brought this most delicate of subjects to public attention.

Mrs Bolland, 47, denies the veracity of her daughter's memory, but with such a lapse of time there is little chance of the truth of the matter being established beyond doubt, unless one party or the other retracts her story. The accusation, once made, has an unpleasant tendency to stick, regardless of its truth; and on the principle that there is no smoke without fire, a reputation has been ruined once and for all.

It is not difficult to see how the medieval atmosphere of a witch-hunt might be established. To lose one's job is not the same as to be burnt at the stake, of course, and sexual abuse really exists, but there are so many unanswered questions about such abuse, many of which are perhaps unanswerable, that it is the perfect subject matter for the potential Grand Inquisitors among us.

Therapists believe most of what their patients say, and Freud himself has been accused of having betrayed his patients when he decided that their tales of sexual abuse in childhood were fantasy rather than reality. Most cases which come to attention are genuine, though some cases arouse controversy even among those who treat them. Just as there was a reluctance 30 years ago to believe that parents could deliberately injure their children by burning them, breaking their arms and so forth, so there has more recently been a reluctance to accept that sexual abuse of children is both widespread and harmful.

Unfortunately, increased publicity about a problem does not necessarily help to solve it. On the contrary, it may act to compound it, especially when the matter is taken up by people with ideological axes to grind, and who lend meaning to their lives by adversarial advocacy. In America, for example, there are self-help books available which suggest that almost every human ill



The wisdom of Sigmund: maybe Freud was right

can certainly be ascribed to sexual abuse in childhood, long repressed in the memory. This has led to people with symptoms "remembering" long-forgotten abuse perpetrated against them, with devastating effects on those accused. If America loses its mind, can Britain be far behind?

No one knows the true prevalence of sexual abuse in

the population, let alone whether it has increased, decreased, or has remained the same over time, and in the absence of such knowledge it is difficult to be certain either about the causes or consequences of such abuse. Certainly, depressed women and those with difficulty in forming healthy relationships who come to the attention of services are more likely to have

been sexually abused than other women; but families in which such abuse takes place are likely to be disordered in other ways. Moreover, the results of social intervention and psychological treatment are very difficult to assess, and perhaps may never be known. It is a case of the need to do something preceding the knowledge about what to do.

There is a modern tendency to assume that full and complete frankness about one's past is necessarily healthier than repression, which amounts at best to hypocrisy, at worst to treason. But surely repression of painful memories may be in many cases desirable. Voltaire wrote that the way to be a bore is to say everything; and there is more at stake here than merely the avoidance of boring others. Will no one speak in favour of fortitude and overcoming one's difficulties oneself by means of repression and sublimation? Can it never be healthy to do so?

To give emphasis and pub-

licity to a problem may actually increase it, because conduct is affected by the conscious content of the mind, an elementary truth which is all too easily forgotten by those who view social problems only in the light of statistical associations. It has long been known, for example, that the portrayal on television of an adolescent suicide may be followed by a rash of such suicides.

It is thus not inconceivable that those who were abused in childhood and who might otherwise have come to terms with their terrible experiences, become depressed not so much because of the experiences themselves, but because the publicity given the problem tells them that it is normal in the circumstances to be depressed, and that therapy is the answer.

But even if this is not so, no one is confident that any quantity of psychological services provided for the abused will actually reduce the sum total of misery caused by abuse. Perhaps Freud was wiser than he knew when he abandoned his seduction theory in favour of fantasy.

DR ANTHONY DANIELS

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Lynne Truss



In National Fertility Week, let's admit that 'awareness' is not working

By nature am quite a patient person, but National Pet Week was the final straw. "Says who?" I wailed in confusion. "What for?" "In as much as which?" As usual, journalists dropped their blithe references to National Pet Week, much as they might refer to International No Smoking Day, or The Cosmic Year of the Woman, but without indicating precisely what the poor ignorant punter was supposed to do about it. I mean, what is the form for National Pet Week? Do you send cards? Do you take direct political action? Do you close your eyes and transmit benign, helpful thoughtwaves to Battersea Dogs Home? What? This week, I believe, is Adult Literacy Week, which by comparison is a relief, if only because it automatically rules out one of the anxieties aforementioned. After all, there's no point sending a "Happy Adult Literacy Week" card to someone who can't read.

Awareness is presumably the point. Ideally, a week is designated as, I don't know, Upholstery Week, and then somehow upholstery awareness builds up such a positive charge in the mental atmosphere that ultimately the average person, making a shopping list or watching television, is suddenly surprised to find the word "antennae" popping into his head. "That's funny," says his wife at bedtime, when he tells her about it. "Myself, I've been thinking all day about covered buttons and padded armrests." Oh well, kiddy-kiddy, turn out the light, they don't know what to make of it. But then, next morning, like a miracle, they agree over breakfast that their attitude to upholstery has been shamelessly remiss, and that they really must learn to stuff horse-hair into sofa cushions without delay.

But it doesn't work like that. These awareness plays (National Condom Week, National Sleeping Out Week, the International Year of the Kevin) generally make you aware of only one thing: that you don't have a clue what's going on. By the time you find out it's Make a Will Day, it's too late to make an appointment; even National Motivation Week neglects to announce itself with sufficient notice to give you time to get motivated. They obviously don't want you to join in. Thus a weird double message emanates from the agencies (charities, churches, and Kevins) who mark our calendars. On the one hand, they say here is an issue demanding universal acknowledgement; on the other, yuh boo with knots on, you missed it.

What is beginning to annoy me in particular is the cavalier use of the appellation "International" for events confined to 12 people huddled around a press release in Hyde Park. It was International No-Diet Day last week, but considering the scale of the event — a few large British women heroically devouring crisps and cheese in an effort to draw attention to the tyrannies of the beauty myth — its title seemed somewhat overblown. Similarly, last year's pioneering International Clear Your Desk day conjured up visions of a global village of office-workers in litter-bin mode, together dumping heaps of old memos with such well-organised synchronicity ("Are ya ready, world? Three, two, one, go!") that the jolt should have knocked the Earth off its axis. But casting one's mind back — well, it didn't. The Earth did not move, just as it didn't (more predictably, alas) for the Kevins.

And be honest, did you know it was International Women's Year? Personally, I thought it was last year and that I'd missed it (as usual), but now I have been reassured that it is going on right now. I feel a huge surging wave of inertia completely overwhelm me. No doubt excellent charitable works are done in the name of International Women's Year, but to me it just suggests a scary parallel universe in which women think it's great to have a year of their own, and know precisely what to do with it. Which is ultimately why I despair of these special days and weeks, unless they are dedicated to something genuinely useful (such as adult literacy). Let people clear their desks as much as they like. Let them motivate themselves, make wills, not smoke, not diet, do something undisclosed about pets (for a whole week, if necessary), and rejoice in the name of Kevin. I don't care. For the rest of us I suggest we establish an International Year of No International Days or Weeks, and take it, very carefully, from there.

There is no peace to keep in Bosnia, so the West must send peace-makers, argues Rosemary Righter

Vance-Owen will not work without force

The goddess Pallas Athena, it was said, never went to war unless she was sure of victory. So much hangs on the United Nations' "implementation force" in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Failure would not only mean continued misery for Bosnia, it would destroy the United Nations' credibility for another generation, and could mark the beginning of the end of America's engagement as a European power.

Nato, which has volunteered for the job, has no supernatural powers. But an alliance equipped to fend off the communist threat undoubtedly has the capacity to compel Bosnia's warring lords to fall in with the Vance-Owen plan. At up to 78,000 men, the "implementation force" now being actively prepared should be adequate: provided, that is, that its political masters do not hobble it, either by showing too much deference to Boutros Boutros Ghali's sudden interest in a strategic command role for himself, or by foolishly restricting its rules of engagement to those of a conventional UN peacekeeping force.

The UN secretary-general's extraordinary proposal that he be empowered to go to the Security Council with "any measures he judges necessary to reorient, correct or even bring an end to military operations" in Bosnia finds no favour with Nato planners. Nor should it. Subordinating Nato operations to UN control would be a certain recipe for chaos.

Nato cannot simply follow the practice of the classic UN peacekeeping force, mandated and equipped to fire only in

self-defence. Even the ultra-cautious Malcolm Rifkind admits that it is unrealistic to expect a full ceasefire in Bosnia. There is broad agreement that heavily armed troops will be required.

Yet the British and French governments still seem to be insisting on "self-defence only" rules of engagement, and ruling out any military action to separate combatants who spring at each other's throats. Since, in the Bosnian context, it is highly unlikely in the early stages that one side would open fire without the other returning it, this is a recipe for letting recalcitrant petty warlords rip. They will be quick to detect and exploit any hesitation. Once the Vance-Owen plan countdown has begun, the Nato/UN "implementation force" must do just that: implement the plan, using whatever means are required. To achieve stability, Nato must project force. Half-measures at the outset would be the shortest route to a serious shooting war.

This breaks new ground. Governments worry that the UN is stumbling into a Bosnian minefield. But the trou-

bled record of the latest generation of UN peacekeeping ventures is warning enough of the folly of failing to equip peacekeepers — a better job-description of Nato's role in Bosnia — with a proper political and military armory.

In Angola, the UN peacekeepers had neither the power nor the mandate to implement a perfectly sensible plan to disarm and demobilise the warring parties before supervising elections. In consequence, fighting resumed within hours of the election result, and the UN is now back to square one, negotiating a fresh "peace agreement". The risk of a repetition in Mozambique is high: the UN plan calls for 7,500 troops. It has so far mustered less than 100.

Cambodia will hold elections within a fortnight, and the UN, which has committed 22,000 men to restoring peace at a cost, so far, of £1.3 billion, has succeeded in registering 4.7 million people, 95 per cent of the electorate. But these elections were supposed to be preceded by UN demobilisation of 70 per cent of the four Cambodian forces, which has not happened. The Khmer Rouge

refused to give up its weapons, and now ban the UN from territory it controls — knowing that the UN force has no powers of enforcement, and cannot even prevent the regular kidnapping of its men by guerrillas. The terrible possibility is that the elections will solve nothing, and unless the UN stays on indefinitely, it will have achieved no more than a breathing-space in Cambodia's devastating conflict.

The most immediately pertinent lesson lies just over the Bosnian border, in Croatia. The first UN "protection force" mission was deployed there "to create the conditions of peace and security required for the negotiation of an overall settlement". Despite the presence of 14,000 peacekeepers, Serb paramilitary police write their own law, and Serbs are moving into houses from which non-Serbs continue to be brutally expelled, with the UN unwillingly providing auxiliary transport for "ethnic cleansing".

Speed will be essential, once the UN decides on deployment in Bosnia. Mr Rifkind promises a quick British re-

sponse, but he talks in the same breath of "a period of preparation and deployment" which will give time to see whether the combatants are "prepared to respect" the ceasefire. These sound suspiciously like the words of a man looking for a respectable exit. The answer, as he must know, is that compliance will be patchy and could rapidly break down altogether unless the troops switch into operational mode immediately. This is feasible only if Nato puts its "rapid reaction" capability to the test, pouring in amphibious reinforcements from the Adriatic.

General John Shakespear, Nato's supreme commander in Europe, insists that the force must be able to do its job "without being at the mercy of the local warlords", condemned like generals Mackenzie and Morillon to take no for an answer from crazed militiamen. He is talking about enforcement, a word that strikes terror into politicians' hearts. The Vance-Owen plan does not require Nato to take sides, other than for peace against war. It does require the full use, if necessary, of Nato firepower.

One day last July in Sarajevo, the admirable Canadian commander, Lewis Mackenzie, gestured bitterly towards the gunfire pounding the airport. "Should I jab them with my ballpoint pen?" he asked. There is no need for this question to be posed again. But it may be, if governments — under the mistaken impression that they are protecting servicemen's lives by insisting they are no more than peacekeepers — lose their nerve before the first engagement.

Another tranche in La Manche

Sir Alastair Morton has only 48 years to find a scapegoat for the hapless optimists who costed his hole in the ground

I am sure you know that Caligula was assassinated in AD 41: not a moment too soon if you ask me. A hundred years later, in 141, the death of the Empress Faustina was announced, but there was no suggestion of foul play.

A century on, 341 is stuffed with excitement — the Franks invaded Gaul, pagan sacrifices were prohibited by imperial edict, there were earthquakes in Syria, Athanasius got his come-up at the Synod of Antioch and was deposed in favour of Arius. (It didn't last.)

It slows down a bit in 441: Theodosius sends a fleet against the Vandals, but it gets walloped. Theo shouldn't have been too upset, though: the Vandals do usually win, throughout history (see Gummer, *passim*). Nothing much to do in 541, even if you count Totila becoming king of the Ostrogoths; it picks up a bit in 741, with the death of Charles Martel (I have never managed to remember whether he was a goodie or a baddie). Skip to 1041, when there is some tremendous fun — all the nobility of Milan, including the Archbishop, were driven out by the populace. (There were also mysterious "tumults in Worcester-shire", but no explanation for them, probably the locals were over-indulging in cider.)

Skip again, and hell breaks out in 1241: Henry the Third "disgusts his subjects" — not by picking his nose in public, but by intruding Magna Carta, whereupon Parliament refused him any money (O si se Gummer!).

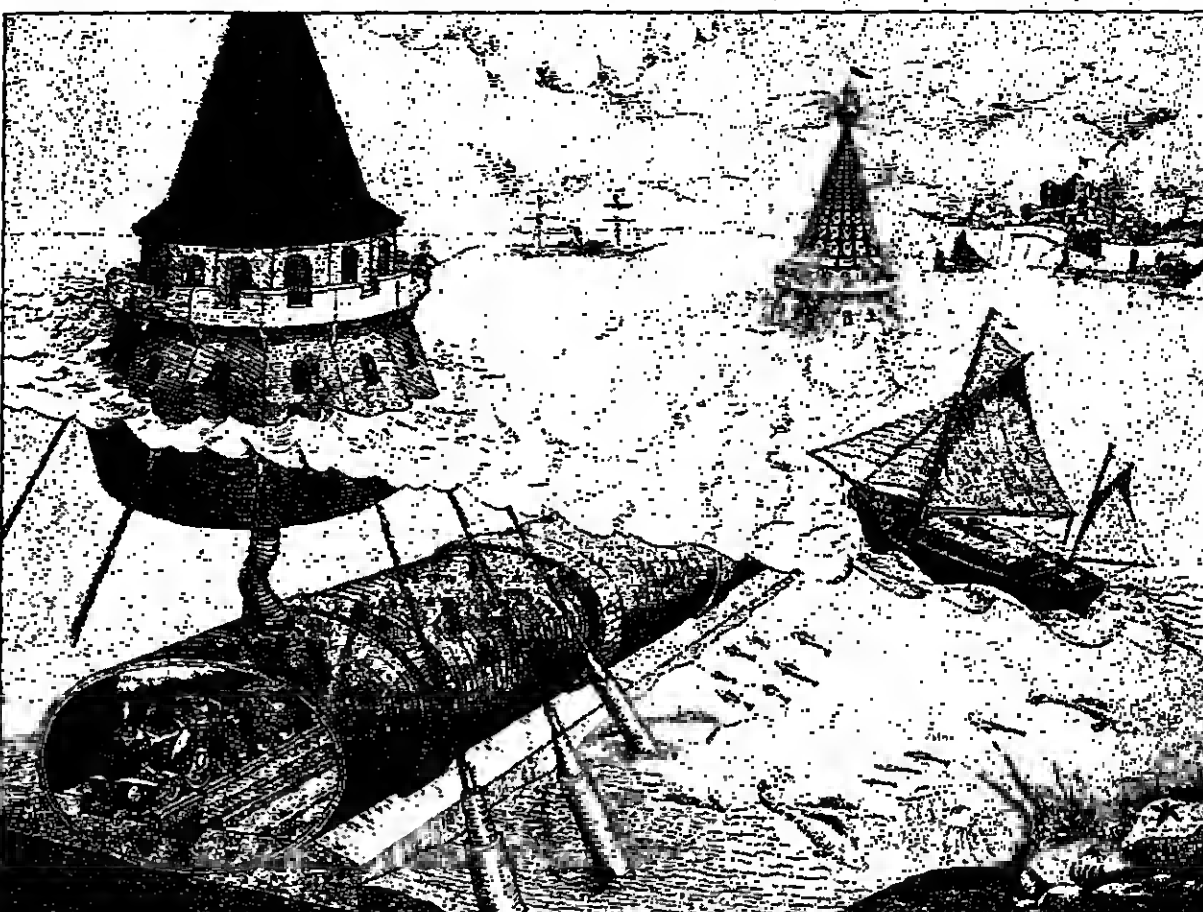
A lot of ups and downs in 1341, though Petrarch was crowned with laurel. 1441 saw Eton founded, a shocking business in 1541 — an inscription in Yorkshire, thought to have been instigated by the Cardinal de Pole, and instead of having the cardinal's head cut off, the king cut off the head of the cardinal's mother. Did you ever?

Everyone knows that 1641 was moving towards civil war, but everyone else has forgotten that it was when Van Dyck died, at the shocking age of 42. And I bet none of you knew that Garrick's debut on any stage was in 1741.

Nearly done. 1841 saw the birth of Edward VII, who was to cause his mother much grief, and of course in 1941 we were at war.

And 2041? Come, do you expect me to be clairvoyant? Not in general, I admit, but there is one prophecy that I will take my stand on, one vision on the horizon that will still be there, one immovable object, one irresistible force, one swelling chorus to shake the stars: the year 2041 is the very last chance for Sir Alastair ("Blame someone else") Morton to blame someone else for the state of affairs which has precluded the running of even a single locomotive pulling even a single carriage even a yard through his notorious hole in the ground.

The year 2041 is not taken at random.



Victorian tunnel vision: investors must wait well into the next century for any hope of a financial return

Bernard Levin

It is the date on which the concessions end. But what if 2041 comes and goes and (making the enormous assumption that by then somebody, somehow, has managed to get at least one train at least half-way through the tunnel) Sir Alastair still cannot pay so much as a penny dividend to the original shareholders, or more realistically, their grandchildren?

And this is not just a merry way of multiplying the number I first thought of. It is very likely indeed that the poor suckers who thought they would sit back in a first-class carriage running smoothly to France, and while away the time by calculating the immense sums that their dividends were going to bring them, will find at the other end (both ends, actually) that there is not so much as a counterfeit coin coming to them. On the contrary, even Sir Alastair has shyly admitted that he may have to ask for another tranche, because at the moment there isn't enough money in the kitty to buy a spare wheel.

A good many years ago, Peter Jay coined the word "bounceur"; its root of course is in "bounce", but the extra U lengthens the sound, and makes it somehow odd and impermanent at once. It didn't catch on, but I have remembered it, because the first demonstration of it that Peter gave me concerned Concorde, and it is the parallels with the tunnel that fascinate me.

The bounceurs carefully draw up a detailed forecast of what the project will cost; they make sure that nothing has been forgotten — interest payments, provision for strikes, injuries, late delivery of materials, everything. Yet somehow,

later on — amid cries of "Oh, dear!", "Well, well, who'd have thought it?", "My, my!" — it turns out that the actual cost is several times the meticulously costed original. I cannot remember what the multiple was in the case of Concorde — that is, how many times more than the solemnly sworn budget it finally cost — but it was not small. The bounceurs had done their work, and still puzzled, went their way to the next project that needed lots of hard cash and even more soft-headed investors.

Sir Alastair had costed the tunnel most scrupulously, and it came to £4.8 billion. When the shareholders' "last" contribution has been collected, the sum will be a little more than £10 billion. Sir Alastair will certainly blame someone else for that, but it is now a little too late for excuses. For by now, you see, we are in the inevitable trap: whether it is Concorde or tunnels or South Sea Bubbles, the very fact that the project is now costing twice its estimate makes it impossible to pull out, on the grounds that it is

better to throw bad money after other bad money than to seek for a face-flannel, wherewith to wash off the egg.

If the quantity of arguments that are now pouring out from behind the struggle between Eurotunnel and Trans-Manche Link turn into litigation, they will be enough to put every lawyer's son through Eton. As for taking sides, I would as lief put my head in the mouth of a very bad-tempered tigress as try to find out who is right and who wrong. But we are long past the point of no return; only the Chancellor is allowed to throw two billion pounds down the drain in a single afternoon.

We do not learn. When it is proposed (not by Sir Alastair — though why shouldn't he be interested?) to fill in the Tusecaran Deep, there will be no shortage of scrupulously thorough estimates of the cost, just as there will be no shortage of eager shareholders, and no one (well, no one but me and Peter Jay) is going to remember the achievements of the bounceurs.

The banks showed the way. Again and again, ordinary mortals reel back when they contemplate their profligacy, their incompetence, their bone-headed chiefs, their uncanny knack of trusting, with hundreds of millions, borrowers who turn out to be Robert Maxwell, if not indeed Asif Nadir. Depend upon it, if the former hadn't drowned himself, and the latter hadn't skedaddled, the banks would still be shovelling money at them, and even if they began to get nervous at the sums they were in for, they would say, with a mirthless laugh: "In for a penny — we can't pull out now!" (If even a quarter of *The Independent's* story of what is going on in Barclays' boardroom is true, it would be difficult to distinguish the directors from a pack of very slightly rabid wolves. Except, perhaps, that the wolves would not, as Barclays has had to find themselves in a hole two billion pounds across, for bad debt provisions in 1992.)

Another time I made sport of the tunnel, a gentleman wrote to me in perturbation. He had bought shares in it, but was worried that it might cave in and squash everyone tragically flat. I told him, of course, that the tunnel would be perfectly safe from collapse, but that he might be better off selling his shares and spending what he got in the nearest fruit-machine saloon, because he might hit the jackpot, but he certainly would not get rich from the tunnel. If he didn't take my advice then, I urge him to do so now.

STOP PRESS. I have just discovered that near Folkestone there is a mock-up of a bit of the tunnel, which visitors can explore, at £3 a go, as though they were riding through it. Ah, well, if the worst comes to the worst, that will be something saved eh, Sir Alastair?

A bottle on ice

ANY offers for a piece of polar history? A Faroe Islands fisherman has found a capsule buried in the ice near the North Pole by Sir Ranulph Fiennes during his 1977 Transpolar Expedition. Snik alvur Orvarodd, who found the capsule on a Faroe beach, is holding out for a high bid.

It may be a long wait. Unknown to Orvarodd, the alloy cylinder, which he approached gingerly at first, thinking it was a mine, contains a selection of valuable items, placed there by Fiennes' sponsor, the Scandinavian airline SAS, to mark the 20th anniversary of its first flight across the Pole. These include leaflets, articles about the pioneering flight, an SAS flag and a cigar.

Fiennes is not interested. "SAS asked us to leave the capsule there because it was the anniversary of their first trans-polar flight, and we obeyed because they were our sponsor. I am amazed that it has turned up in the Faroes. He can keep it. I never knew what was inside — it could

have been the Crown Jewels for all I knew."

When contacted yesterday on his fishing-boat off the Faroes, his only English phrases were "You want to buy?" and "How much?" But he may get some reward. John Herbert, SAS's director of corporate communications in Copenhagen, says: "It would be nice to have it back and we are open to negotiation but I have no idea how much. We do not fly to the Faroe Islands, but if he got himself to Copenhagen I'm sure we could work something out."

William Waldegrave, the public service minister, last night dined with Francis Crick and Jim Watson, the scientists who, in 1953, discovered DNA. He was, according to *ir*, John Maddox, editor of *Nature*, which hosted the dinner, less sure. "He may be looking forward to meeting them, but they'll want to bend his ear about the proposed privatisation of the Medical Research Council's lab in

Cambridge, where they worked on DNA." Sounds like a double whammy on the double helix.

Pyjama game

THE BRIGHT new world of cricket, where coloured pyjamas are replacing traditional white flannels, has caused a flurry of activity in Westminster.

No, dear, I'm going to play cricket



GET

ster in the run up to the first Lords v Commons cricket match since 1925. A meeting to consider dress-code has been called by Graham Allen, Labour MP for Nottingham North and captain of the Commons



team, which takes to the Oval as underdog next week. "We need a meeting to sort this out. We can't have Labour players turning out in coral pink. Tories in blue and Euro-septics in black. I will have to emphasise that whites are to be worn," he says.

Allen admits that the Lords team is a formidable opposition. "They are stuffed full of public school blokes. And I've just heard that Bill Cash, our demon bowler, has pulled out. He has to go to Denmark because of Maastricht."

Pay as you go

ASIF NADIR's growing confidence as he whistles away his time in the leonine groves of Northern Cyprus may have something to do with the considerable press attention he has attracted. On a conserva-



five estimate, up to 150 visiting journalists are now on the island, and most of them are staying in hotels owned by his former company, Polly Peck.

Technically, income from the Palm Beach at Famagusta and the Jasmine Court in Kyrenia should go to the Polly Peck administrators in Britain. With both enjoying unprecedented custom so early in the season, no wonder Nadir feels confident enough to promise Polly Peck's long-suffering shareholders a "very pleasant surprise". And that's before the bar bill.

Dust on the line

JODIE FOSTER, we learn, is to star in a Hollywood disaster movie about the Channel tunnel. But Eurotunnel has already had its first crash. Visitors to the company's exhibi-

tion centre in Folkestone were appalled this weekend as two trains collided on the centre's model railway.

The crash happened just as the London-bound train was emerging from the tunnel, only to meet the French train head on.

Eurotunnel insists it is the first time the 30 ft replica, designed in 1987 to impress potential shareholders, has ever crashed. Spokeswoman Alison Porter says: "The model was being renovated and dust got into the electric. But we would advise people not to worry. It is a model. There was a small hiccup with a locomotive. That's all."

Oxford University students are spluttering over their Pimm's over a revelation in *Cherwell*, the university paper. The front page displays a naked man, arms aloft, under the headline: "Naked May-day Frenzy". The paper is unperturbed by threats of action under obscenity laws. "It's not a question of taste, it's a question of journalistic integrity," says Greg Jackson, the editor. "He got it out for the masses, so why shouldn't we?"



The famous four go upstairs

For the first time in 10 years the Gang of Four has been reunited in Parliament — by accident. Just hours before the Newbury result, the Gang of Three — Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Rodgers and Baroness Williams — met in the House of Lords. The three met regularly, and were just settling down for an exchange of middle-of-the-road views when their erstwhile ally, Lord Owen (above left), arrived in the Lords to report on his marathon peace-broking effort in Bosnia.



Rodgers (right), who last

week handed in his notice as director general of the Royal Institute of British Architects, says: "It was a surprise. We have not been together in Parliament since Shirley and I lost our seats in 1983."

He exchanged courteous words with David Owen. I have exchanged only a few sentences with him since the split. Rodgers wishes Owen well in his Balkan peace mission. But he saw little prospect of a peace plan being agreed with his former colleagues. "I think feelings still run pretty deep."

Sympathy

If the Himalayas were British women, Everest, only the emy her the eous up to the beautiful. Ms Stephen, mainly British adventures. Freya (100) yesterday. Arabia and the male, penney. European men. Dame Freya never. Annapurna in the. Until the age of. Ventures were de. Fennes, whose. produced in the. country, is patron. who became a m. iries around Ma.



Honesty is the only way out of the government's hole

IN THE FAST LANE

DISTAFF INTO PITON

Calls for humility and realism after the Tory defeats

Church in turmoil

Editor's bouquet

Fond memories

Golden silences

From the Reverend Dr Ian Ker

Unhealthy decisions

Road threat to Bath

A plea for the mentally ill

Moving to the left

Sex inequality

Sir Roy's BA role

Pirate's handle

Yours sincerely,
ALAN HADFIELD,
12 Chipstead Close, Maidstone, Kent.
May 10.

coming
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and Rana
late Alexander
and of Dame
and widow of
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OBITUARIES

DAME FREYA STARK, DBE,
writer and traveller, died in
Asolo, Italy, on May 9 aged
100. She was born on January
31, 1893.

IT IS not unusual for travellers to write well about their travels. Doughty, Burton, Kinglake, to mention only a few from Freya Stark's own territory, belong as much to literature as to geography. What was so rare about Freya Stark was that she was a woman who travelled the hard way in male lands, and that she would have been a writer if she had never got further than her front door. The movement and colour of words in many languages fascinated her; so did the nobility and absurdity of human beings; so did the world of ideas. Of course, travel provided her with the material for most of her books, but when she grew older and travelled less she wrote more, finding memory an even more productive vein than novelty.

For obvious reasons Freya Stark was often compared with that other intrepid female orientalist, Gertrude Bell; but the comparison is misleading. Gertrude Bell was a rich, masculine person, who "boored the pashas flat". Freya Stark was extremely feminine, without money or any worldly advantages and with a constitution which, though fundamentally tough, was continually letting her down at critical moments, so that on more than one of her journeys she very nearly died. But a will of iron, infinite patience and powers of persuasion, an exact knowledge of her own aims and a sublime egoism, overcame all obstacles. Woe betide anyone — tribal sheikh, general officer, Italian greengrocer, Levantine merchant, guest sitting down at the scabbard board — if they thought they were going to be let off with anything less than total surrender.

With all this strength of character went a matching generosity. Freya Stark drew out the talents of others. She believed most men and some women capable of distinction, and they responded accordingly. Only the deliberately second-rate angered her. She regarded the world as a place thrown open for individual achievement, and she herself achieved much.

Freya Stark was born in Paris where her parents were briefly resident. Her mother and father were first cousins, both belonging to an old family with its roots in Devon. Here her father's branch had remained, but her maternal grandmother had settled in Italy. It was Italy that was to be Freya Stark's home (when eventually she had one) but her roots remained in Devon and, more particularly, in Dartmoor. No more fervent lover of everything connected with England has ever been a permanent and voluntary exile.

Both parents were artists of more than ordinary ability (some of her father's sculptures are to be seen at the Tate). Freya Stark's childhood was highly mobile. Houses were rented, bought, and built in London, Italy, France and on Dartmoor, but none occupied for

long. "My parents were moderately well off people of good taste, with a liking for the arrangement of houses, and yet it is astonishing how much of our childhood was spent in dingy lodgings."

One place only came to rival Dartmoor in her childhood affections, and that was Asolo, the small fortress town which looks out under the lee of the Dolomites across the Venetian plain towards Padua. Before Robert Stark married he had taken the advice of Robert Browning's son, Pen Browning, and with an artist friend, Herbert Young, had escaped to Asolo from the summer heat of Venice.

Within a week Herbert Young had bought a house in the city walls with a wild garden enclosing the remains of a Roman theatre. Here he settled for the rest of his life, and when he died in 1941 house and garden passed by his will to Freya Stark.

For Robert and Flora Stark Asolo also became an early home, though a less permanent one. In the first volume of her autobiography, *Traveller's Prelude*, Freya Stark described the growing incompatibility and eventual separation of two beings whom she loved with parallel but distinct devotion. With her sister Vera, a year younger than herself, the small Freya was a sorrowful spectator of a process which ended with her father's departure to Canada and her mother's settling in another hill town, Dromero in Piedmont.

Freya Stark had no regular schooling, but learnt to speak French and German almost as naturally as Italian. She read universally in the literature of all countries, including Greece and Rome. It was not until she was 19, and entered Bedford College, London, that her formal education began, and two years later the outbreak of war brought it to an end.

One great benefit of this brief academic interlude was that it gave her the friendship of W. P. Ker, who was quick to recognise the unusual qualities of this small, shy creature who spoke English (on the rare occasions when she opened her mouth) with an Italian accent. He directed her imagination and guided her literary taste, and in the vacations transformed her from a lover of mountains into an intrepid mountaineer.

When the first world war came, Freya Stark trained as a nurse and served with the Trevelyan hospital unit on the Italian front, finding herself caught up in the chaos of the Caporetto disaster of 1917, in which the Italians were utterly routed by the Austrians. Peace brought family complications and years of poverty and increasing ill-health — including three years as a bedridden and despairing invalid. It was partly for distraction, but always ultimately with the idea of travel, that she began taking lessons in Arabic from a white bearded Capuchin in San Remo. By 1927, a course at the London School of Oriental Studies behind her, improved health, plus a minuscule but assured income — and the



Camelback comfort: a traditional British broly protects Freya Stark from fierce midday sun

traveller's prelude was completed. Poor health and lack of funds remained troublesome, though successful authorship eventually counteracted the latter. In other respects Freya Stark was now, at the age of 34, well equipped for the hazards of the next 12 years. She had great curiosity and no narrow prejudices; she liked people, treating them as equals without condescension or diffidence; she was used to hardship; she knew languages; had acquired the elements of surveying, and was a competent nurse. Two other things she quickly learnt — that journeys must be minutely planned, if they are to be successful, and how to take photographs. She became an artist in photography.

Freya Stark first set foot in Asia in November 1927. She settled for the winter at Brummana in Lebanon, spent some time in Damascus, and with a friend completed her first proper expedition, through the then disturbed Jebel Druze country, subsequently moving on to Jerusalem and Cairo. The literary product of this period was *Letters from Syria*, not published until 1942.

Two years later she was in Lebanon again, on her way to Baghdad. Here she established herself in the house of a shoemaker overlooking the Tigris, much to the disgust of the British community which considered such behaviour "a flouting of national prestige". Freya Stark never ceased to marvel at the blinkered views of expatriates. Uprising and predicaments made her in a sense "unconventional" though she cherished the traditional British virtues — courtesy, restraint, self-reliance — to an infinitely greater degree than most of her critics. She was, in fact, like her father, a High Tory anarchist as well as an artist.

There were, however, some British in Baghdad without blinkers who were quick to appreciate the newcomer. These included Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, then adviser to the Ministry of Interior and later ambassador, and Lionel Smith, adviser to the Ministry of Education. These two became lifelong friends, joining the ranks of the older men whose society always meant so much to Freya Stark. Such had been her father and W. P. Ker; such, too, were Sidney Cockrell and Lord Waverley.

Having absorbed oriental ways and languages in Baghdad, she used it as a base for invasions of Iran. Three tough but extremely rewarding solo journeys were carried out in 1929-31, two in Luristan and one in the mountains of Mazandaran, south of the Caspian sea. It was on this occasion that she "first stood consciously on the edge of death" as the result of severe malaria and dysentery combined. Out of these journeys came *The Valley of the Assassins* (1934), the book which made her reputation as a writer, and which remains probably the most popular of all those she wrote. In it can be seen in all their

freshness the qualities which combined to make Freya Stark so attractive a personality in print — strong sensitivity to places and people, humour, and a clear narrative style, free from the somewhat conscious adornment which sometimes accumulated later. (She herself said of her style: "There is nothing to it except a natural ear for cadence and the wish to get the meaning right." True enough.)

The first truly Arabian journey came in the winter of 1934-5. Her route was from Mukalla on the coast, northward into the Wadi Hadramaut and to Shibam and Tarim. The episode ended with her rescue by the RAF, from Aden, after she contracted measles and, not properly recovered, so that her heart was strained — and very nearly stopped altogether. Prolonged convalescence, and a return to Iraq, were followed by a second Arabian journey, again with Mukalla as a starting-point, in the winter of 1937-8, this time ending in dengue fever but no RAF rescue. These journeys were recorded in *The Southern Gates of Arabia* (1936), *Seen in the Hadramaut* (1938), and *A Winter in Arabia* (1940).

The war engaged Freya Stark in political and publicity work, for the most part in Arab lands. She served in Aden, Yemen (showing propaganda films under the noses of Mussolini's ubiquitous agents), Cairo and Baghdad (where she was one of those besieged in the British embassy by Rashid Ali's revolt). She had, needless to say, her own ideas of how things should be run, and these ideas, more than directives from a remote ministry, governed her actions. Much of her time was devoted to an association she founded in Egypt — and later developed in Iraq — called the Brotherhood of Freedom. This consisted of groups of autonomous cells devoted to the cult of self-help, encouraged — and to a limited extent financed — from a centre which mainly consisted of Freya Stark herself. By a characteristic twist of fate, a lecture tour of the United States, arranged for her by the Ministry of Information in the autumn of 1943, involved her in what she was later to describe as much the worst of all her journeys — a burst appendix on the Halifax-bound liner *Aquitania*, then a troopship. Again, she cheated death by inches.

After the armistice of 1943 she went back to Italy where she worked for the British embassy. When, towards the end of the war, she was able to return to her house at Asolo she found it intact, in spite of its having been used as headquarters by both the retreating Germans and the Salò fascists. Its possessions had been hidden and preserved by loyal friends.

In 1947 Freya Stark married Stewart Penrose, diplomatist and orientalist, and accompanied him to his posts in Barbados and Cyrenaica, but five years later the marriage, which appears to have been based on a misunderstanding of his sexual orientation, ended in an amicable separation. She was now writing her autobiography,

three volumes of which appeared in swift succession: *Traveller's Prelude* (1950) — the best of them, a graphic and at times most moving portrait — *Beyond the Euphrates* (1951) and *The Coast of Incesse* (1953). A fourth volume, dealing with the war years, *Dust in the Lion's Paw* came out in 1961.

Now, at 60, she looked for new worlds to conquer, and found them in Anatolia and its history. She learnt Turkish (with the aid of a Turkish bible and Turkish detective stories). She made several arduous journeys, often on horseback, in the remote parts of Turkey, acting as guide, interpreter and goad to younger friends whom she thus initiated into the joys of oriental travel. She brushed up her classics. Out of this came *Ionia: a Quest* (1954), *The Lycian Shore* (1956), *Alexander's Path* (1958), *Riding to the Tigris* (1959), and finally the product of three years' concentrated labour, *Rome on the Euphrates* (1966), a scholarly study of Rome's eastern lines, illuminated by her own unique knowledge of the topography of the region about which she was writing.

Freya Stark had now all the resources for a graceful and comfortable old age — a beautiful house filled with beautiful things, troops of friends, a solid reputation, a contented mind.

But she had, besides, an unconquerable restlessness. In 1962, on the eve of her 70th birthday, she suddenly bought a hill near Asolo on which she proceeded to build an enormous house to her own design. The Balzacian complications of the sale of her old house and the financing of the new one at times strained even her composure. She sought relief in revisiting old haunts — Iran, Turkey, Greece — as well as discovering new ones, notably Afghanistan and Nepal.

After a few years the big house was abandoned for the final refuge of a flat in Asolo. There was more travelling, well on into her late eighties — on horseback in Nepal and the Pamirs, down the Euphrates on a raft for the BBC — continuing to outpace many of those half or even a quarter of her age. She enjoyed watching the publication in many volumes of her letters, the form in which her career as a writer had begun and in which she excelled.

Fortunately, since for the last five years the world had passed her by, she knew nothing of the publication of a shallow and hostile biography of her, produced to coincide with her 100th birthday earlier this year.

Freya Stark was appointed CBE in 1953 and created DBE in 1972. She received many geographical awards, including the Burnes Medal from the Royal Asiatic Society in 1933, the Founder's Medal from the Royal Geographical Society in 1942, and the Percy Sykes Memorial Medal from the Royal Central Asian Society in 1951. She received an LLD from Glasgow University that same year and a D.Litt from Durham in 1971. Her godson was her publisher, John (Jack) Murray.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKET FOR SALE

TICKETS

FA CUP FINAL
WIMBLEDON '93
CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
END VALS. ASOT
PRINCE OF WALES
BON JOVI US
Phantom, Salop.
Joseph, Crayke Two You.
All pop, sport & theatre
071 323 4480

RENTALS

ALL AVAILABLE

ALL AVAILABLE PA Cup, Sunset Biv.
Phantom, Min. Salop, Cals.
Lis. Min. 071 497 1427.

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ALL FA Cup Wimbledon Cricket
Cals. Sunset sport tonight & sold
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GIFTS

A BIRTHDAY Newspaper, Orie-
tal. Supers. pre-arranged.
Sun. 7 days. 071 497 1427.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

THIRINGHAM 1207 7147
Cals. Sunset sport tonight & sold
for 071 497 1427.

RENTALS

AIR INTERNATIONAL. Low
cost. Sun. 7 days. 071 497 1427.

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RENTALS

NOTTING HILL. 1st & 2nd bed
rooms. Sun. 7 days. 071 497 1427.

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rooms. Sun. 7 days. 071 497 1427.

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NOTTING HILL. 1st & 2nd bed

UNIVERSITY GUIDE

BARCLAYS For this term, next term and the long term.

Finding something special

BEST RESOURCES TOP 20

1. Cambridge
2. Buckingham
3. Imperial College London
4. Oxford
5. Royal Holloway
6. York
7. Edinburgh
8. Loughborough
9. Sheffield
10. University College London
11. Birmingham
12. Manchester
13. Leeds
14. Bath
15. Reading
16. Keele
17. Exeter
18. Newcastle
19. Kings College London
20. Warwick

TOP 20 CONVENTIONAL ACADEMIC CRITERIA

1. Imperial College London
2. Cambridge
3. Oxford
4. University College London
5. Edinburgh
6. UMIST
7. Bristol
8. Bath
9. Nottingham
10. Southampton
11. Warwick
12. York
13. Kings College London
14. Glasgow
15. Birmingham
16. Leeds
17. Manchester
18. Sussex
19. Liverpool
20. London School of Economics

PROFESSIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT TOP 20

1. Birmingham
2. De Montfort
3. Middlesex
4. Nottingham
5. Huddersfield
6. Nottingham Trent
7. Strathclyde
8. South Bank
9. Sunderland
10. Central England
11. Humber
12. Newcastle
13. Aberdeen
14. Buckingham
15. Loughborough
16. Surrey
17. West of England
18. Oxford
19. York
20. Hull

DIVERSITY TOP 20

1. Thames Valley
2. Derby
3. Wolverhampton
4. Anglia
5. Humber
6. North London
7. East London
8. Ulster
9. Middlesex
10. Manchester Metropolitan
11. Robert Gordon's
12. Northumbria
13. Oxford Brookes
14. Reading
15. St David's, Lampeter
16. Keele
17. Central Lancashire
18. Swansea
19. Sunderland
20. Brighton



One university may have high standards but few resources. Another may accept low grades but have a poor record. Professor Tom Cannon explains the "Top 20" tables (left)

UNIVERSITY	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972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The results are not long-term borrow-

BAT scrip fers more

It has agreed to sell its shares to the public, a move which will allow it to raise up to £100 million. The company is currently trading at a price of 1.25p per share. It is expected that the offer will be oversubscribed.

ers 500,000

in 1992, it was up to 14. The company is currently trading at a price of 1.25p per share.

jects revival

it for years



Chief attraction: Sitting Bull at the Billund Legoland

Lego reveals plans for £60m Windsor park

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

LEGO, the Danish family firm whose brightly-coloured plastic bricks have built a worldwide toy empire, will today unveil to local planning officials details of its long-planned scheme for the Legoland in Windsor. The 142-acre site is expected to cater for 1.2 million visitors a year and employ up to 600 staff.

The first Legoland, opened in 1968 in the small town of Billund on Denmark's Jutland peninsula, is the second biggest tourist attraction in Denmark.

It draws more than a million visitors a year in a country with a total population of only five million. Billund was the home town of Ole Kirk Christiansen, the man who gave Lego its quiet beginnings 60 years ago.

His descendants still control the firm, albeit through tax-efficient Swiss holding companies.

Lego's confidence about expanding its concept to Britain, and eventually to America, reflects the Danes' long-standing self-assurance in the pleasure park business.

Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens, which celebrate their 150th anniversary this year, are said to have inspired Walt Disney in the fifties to create his first Disneyland, Tivoli, as Denmark's top attraction, enjoys 4 million visitors a year.

Tomkins cut 1,500 RHM jobs after takeover

By PATRICIA TEHAN

A TOTAL of 1,500 jobs have been cut at Ranks Hovis McDougall, the baking group, since its £925 million takeover by Tomkins in December last year.

The industrial conglomerate will make a £90 million provision in its accounts to cover the cost of the job cuts and other restructuring.

RHM's Windsor head office is to close after a review of office accommodation.

In its first progress report on the integration of RHM, Tomkins also said profits for the year just ended will be "in line with market expectations, continuing our record of above-average earnings growth, even though trading conditions generally have shown few signs of sustained improvement", Ian Hillier, of NatWest Markets, is forecasting £170 million, up from £132.1 million.

The dividend for the year will be not less than the 6.35p forecast at the time of the bid - an increase of 21 per cent.

After the acquisition, financed partly by a £653 million rights issue, Tomkins ended the year with net cash of more than £100 million.

Tomkins' interests now include bread, revolvers and lawnmowers.

On the management side, RHM's five UK divisions have been streamlined into four with shorter lines of communication. The Chicago head office of RHM US has been closed, with responsibility for its businesses transferred to Tomkins' HQ in Dayton, Ohio.

Tomkins has also closed RHM bakeries at Croydon and Exeter and a plant at Taffs Well near Cardiff. It has reduced capacity at the Wimbush bakery in Birmingham.

Distribution depots at Liverpool and Preston have been closed and the Grimsby depot is also to be shut down.

Tomkins said the closures bring capacity more into line with demand and concentrate production in the efficient bakeries.

RHM's product range has also come in for scrutiny, with low-volume items being eliminated. However, new lines such as Mothers Pride Free White and split rolls and buns have been introduced.

Substantial cost-cutting measures have been implemented in RHM's flour milling business. Tomkins said the measures were accelerated by difficult market conditions and sterling's devaluation after leaving the ERM. It hopes milling efficiency will be improved by recent capital investment programmes at Southampton and Manchester.

Rationalisation at RHM Foods - which includes Sharwood's and Bisto - led to the closure of its Chapelall depot in Lanarkshire. The McDougalls flour bagging plant in Nottingham is also to close.

Davy denies share support operation in Greencore stake

By CARL MORTIMER

DAVY, the Dublin stockbroker at the centre of the growing political controversy over the placing of a stake owned by the government of the Irish Republic in Greencore, said there had been no share support operation or false market in Greencore shares after the botched attempt on April 14 to place the 30 per cent holding.

Trading resumed in shares of Greencore, the food group, yesterday, after the Bank of Ireland stated that it would take up any shares not taken up by institutions, up to a maximum of 10 million shares.

Dealings in Greencore were suspended last Thursday, after it was disclosed that parties connected with Davy had taken shares in conflict with rules limiting stakes to 15 per cent.

The Bank of Ireland, which owns Davy, said its agreement to take up more shares was dependent on approval from the enterprise and employment minister.

Kyran McLaughlin, a director of Davy, said the stockbroker's only mistake had been to overestimate demand for Greencore shares. Respond-

The Securities and Futures Authority in London will launch its own investigation of the troubled share placing once Irish authorities have concluded their probe

ing to the decision by the Securities & Futures Authority (SFA) in London to investigate the placing, Mr McLaughlin said it was nonsensical. "The London Stock Exchange have got it wrong," he said.

The SFA intends to look into the events surrounding the Greencore placing, including SG Warburg's agreement with Davy to take up 10 million Greencore shares as a place of last resort.

According to Davy, both parties were to share the profits and losses of the transaction but Greencore was not a party to the deal. Mr McLaughlin said that a misinformation campaign about Greencore led to weak demand for the stock but the broker was reluctant to place the shares with Warburg. It chose instead to retain some in-house, with the balance sold to directors of Davy and Gandon Holding, a company connected with it. "We were not happy exercising the full back-stop. We would have

been severely criticised for having a placing that flopped," Mr McLaughlin said.

The SFA enquiry will not begin until the Irish Stock Exchange has concluded its own investigation. Tom Healy, in charge of the investigation in Dublin, said the Irish Stock Exchange was looking at all aspects of the placing. "The core issue is whether the market was misled," he said.

Mr McLaughlin says that Davy complied with all disclosure requirements by revealing its interest in Greencore shares within five days. "We were not required to disclose it earlier," he said.

According to the SFA, offshore stockbroking firms could also be caught under UK securities legislation. Geoff Turner, of the SFA, said that the Financial Services Act can apply to brokers outside the UK if they regularly carry on business in the UK.

Tempos, page 25



Rolling along: Mike Smith, chief executive of API, the printing-to-packaging group, has reported pre-tax profits of £1.96 million (£1.34 million), a rise of 46 per cent, for the six months to April 3. The company, the second-largest maker of stamping foil in the world, said there was

nothing to suggest the second-half performance would "not continue this encouraging trend". Earnings per share in the period rose 42 per cent to 6.4p against 4.5p last time, and the interim dividend is raised 10 per cent to 3.55p (3.05p). The group has net cash of £2 million and intends to

pursue growth organically and by acquisition. The biggest profits contributor was the foils and laminates arm. Profits jumped to £14 million from £7.9 million in the comparable period last time. API spent £1 million last year fighting off an unwelcome £24 million takeover bid from NMC.

Tempos, page 25

Holders of GPA bonds face losses

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN holders of GPA Group's junk bonds face losses of up to \$1.6 billion under a debt restructuring plan by the Irish aircraft leasing company that moves into a crucial stage this week.

The price of the \$2 billion 8.75 per cent bond issue firmed slightly in New York yesterday to between 21 and 31 cents for each \$1 face value, but analysts doubt bondholders will get anything like that if they agree to GPA demands to swap the debt for equity. Paul Davner, an analyst with BDS Securities, a specialist in junk bonds, said: "The bondholders have a gun to their heads."

The bondholders, which include several leading American insurance and unit trust companies, are due to meet GPA executives in New York on Thursday. Then, the company will seek a moratorium on interest payments as a prelude to a debt-equity swap. GPA is set to start paying \$50 million in interest payments next Monday as part of \$200 million due to the bondholders over the next two months. GPA is believed to be in talks with General Electric about an injection of capital.

Prowling says house price rise must wait

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

PROWLING, the south of England housebuilder, cut its pre-tax losses to £4.9 million (£17.7 million loss) in the year to February 28 but said recovery in 1993 would probably be in volumes rather than prices.

Operating profits dived to £3.9 million from £8.4 million, but a £4.9 million exceptional writedown against landbank values contrasted with £22.1 million last time.

The loss per share has been cut from 18.8p to 7.9p. There is no final dividend as a second interim dividend of 1.7p was paid last month, making a total of 3.4p (5p).

Terry Roydon, chief executive, said that while volumes

would probably recover this year, it would be 1994 before there was any material improvement in house prices.

Prowling, which slashed its payroll by more than a quarter to 200 in the year, sold 290 houses against 273 last year. However, the average price fell to £88,000 from £103,000.

Mr Roydon feels it could be 1995 before the group approaches its halcyon levels of 600 to 700 sales a year.

Prowling's focus has traditionally been on the "trading up" market, although this time sales to first-time buyers rose to 30 per cent from 23 per cent. Mr Roydon said he felt this proportion would fall as recovery hardened. Hopes for "affordability ratios" in the South being "very strong at the moment", said Mr Roydon.

Year-end borrowings were £26.1 million, against a peak in the year of £42.4 million. Gearing is 48 per cent. Prowling has not called on shareholders for funds since floating in 1988, and said it had no plans to do so.

Panmure Gordon, Prowling's broker, is looking for profits of £3 million this year. The shares were up 4p at 118p.



Roydon: sales rise

Union will fight BT job losses

By ROSS THOMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE leader of Britain's telephone workers pledged total opposition to compulsory redundancies after BT declined to rule out suggestions that the company may shed 70,000 jobs over the next four years.

Tony Young, general secretary of the National Communications Union, is to demand a promise from BT that there will be no renewed job-cutting drive. "Under no circumstances will we accept compulsory redundancies," Mr Young said. "The union is determined to protect the jobs of those who want to stay with the company."

Last night, however, a BT spokeswoman said that while no job losses were planned beyond March 1995, staff numbers were "kept constantly under review". BT has shed 60,000 employees since 1989 and negotiated the loss of a further 15,000 this year. A smaller number will go in the year to March 1995.

There have been suggestions that the company may seek to shed a further 40,000, bringing the total down to little more than 100,000 within four years. BT dismissed the suggestions as "speculative".

Berisford edges back into black

By OUR CITY STAFF

BERISFORD International, the property and commodities conglomerate, is back to square one after its £210 million bid for Clarks was rejected by the shoe maker's shareholders last week.

Berisford scraped back into the black in the six months to March 31, with a profit of £400,000, compared with a £57 million interim loss last year.

Alan Bowkett, Berisford's chief executive, said the company had been looking at five acquisition targets: the collapse of the Clarks deal reduced the number to four. Berisford had not expected the Clarks bid to be contested.

"The only mistake we made was that we were invited to make an offer on a friendly basis and we believed them," Mr Bowkett said.

American tax losses of \$650 million suggest that future acquisitions will have an American component, but Mr Bowkett reckons the first deal will be in Europe. Berisford also has £40 million of UK tax losses and recoverable advance corporation tax of £19 million.

The company incurred an operating loss of £1.5 million during the period, taking into account central overheads of £5 million. Mr Bowkett said US agribusiness, which con-

tributed £1.1 million (£1.5 million), was seasonal and made more money in the second half. Berisford's property assets continue to be sold, and the company's commodity trading interests are also likely to go. Berisford's other businesses include Kelton, an automotive products company, and Eurotrailer, which owns and rents 700 trailers.

The balance sheet has net cash of £3.2 million. Earnings per share were 0.3p, compared with a loss of 58.3p in the previous period. The company is still not paying a dividend.

Tempos, page 25

Rule change denies auditors a fig-leaf

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT FINANCIAL EDITOR

FROM this autumn, company accounts will never be quite the same again. Those seeking the usual four-line report from some grand firm of accountants knowing that the accounts have been audited, comply with accounting standards, and give a true and fair view of the year's trading and the state of affairs, will be disappointed.

Instead, at least for companies reporting on financial years ending on or after September 30, the audit report will be more wordy, taking about two dozen lines, even if it has little more to say than that the accounts seem fine. When all is not so fine, however, the user will find the auditor's comments potentially more useful in explaining what is wrong with the accounts, if not the company.

Nigel Macdonald, who helped to draw up the standard and is now president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of

Scotland, argues that this may be "the most fundamental change in audit reporting for a generation". Others will see it as merely a forerunner of greater changes to come. The first mandatory Statement of Auditing Practice from the new, strengthened Auditing Practices Board stems from the board's cautious beginnings, before it was gripped with fervour for reform. It approached the expectations gap, over auditors' role in alerting investors to trouble, with a limited aim: to deflate ideas of what auditors presently do.

Many of the new words will merely explain that the accounts are the responsibility of the board of directors, which draws them up, and that auditors are there to give an independent opinion and plan their audit to give themselves enough information to establish whether the figures are broadly in the right area.

The new formula will, however, put more onus on auditors by banning easy get-out clauses. No longer will auditors

say that accounts give a true and fair view "subject to" some imponderable, such as a contract going right or the company remaining solvent. They must ensure that the issue is explained in the accounts. The audit report will still refer to any fundamental uncertainty and explain its significance. If the issue is judged by directors, the auditors will qualify their opinion of the accounts.

Qualifications will be clearly signalled. Bill Morrison, chairman of the APB, said this should strengthen the hand of auditors. "It removes uncertainty by setting out where comment is required. There can be no argument about whether something needs to be referred to and therefore no incentive for a company to look for a second opinion."

The change will clear up another uncertainty. Until now, auditors often dated their reports on the day the accounts were agreed, not when they actually signed. This may have made many audit reports legally invalid.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

REPOSSESSION OF GOODS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, being the owner of the goods described in the schedule hereunder, do hereby give notice to the possessor of the goods that the goods are to be repossessed by the undersigned on or before the date specified in the schedule hereunder.

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Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain or loss. This is against the daily dividend figure. It is possible you have won out on a share of the daily price money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	Morgan Cole	100	10.00
2	Wish Water	100	10.00
3	MTI	100	10.00
4	Rockwell	100	10.00
5	Tipitoni	100	10.00
6	Clampet	100	10.00
7	Argon	100	10.00
8	Medway	100	10.00
9	BOC	100	10.00
10	Ind. Friendly	100	10.00
11	Harvey	100	10.00
12	Grimsby	100	10.00
13	Bar	100	10.00
14	KITZ	100	10.00
15	Bowmer	100	10.00
16	Mackay	100	10.00
17	Barclay	100	10.00
18	Barclay	100	10.00
19	Barclay	100	10.00
20	Barclay	100	10.00
21	Barclay	100	10.00
22	Barclay	100	10.00
23	Barclay	100	10.00
24	Barclay	100	10.00
25	Barclay	100	10.00
26	Barclay	100	10.00
27	Barclay	100	10.00
28	Barclay	100	10.00
29	Barclay	100	10.00
30	Barclay	100	10.00
31	Barclay	100	10.00
32	Barclay	100	10.00
33	Barclay	100	10.00
34	Barclay	100	10.00
35	Barclay	100	10.00
36	Barclay	100	10.00
37	Barclay	100	10.00
38	Barclay	100	10.00
39	Barclay	100	10.00
40	Barclay	100	10.00

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11,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 51212 between 10am and 5pm (see the Sunday Times for full details).

Three winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mr R. Macpherson, Connie, Fern, Ms L. Ansell, St. Neots, Cambs and Mr M. Mulholland of Birmingham.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
411	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
412	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
413	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
414	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
415	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
416	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
417	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
418	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
419	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
420	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
421	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
422	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
423	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
424	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
425	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
426	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
427	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
428	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
429	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
430	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, ROADS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
431	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
432	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
433	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
434	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
435	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
436	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
437	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
438	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
439	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
440	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

BUSINESS SERVICES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
441	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
442	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
443	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
444	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
445	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
446	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
447	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
448	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
449	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
450	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICITY

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
451	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
452	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
453	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
454	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
455	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
456	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
457	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
458	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
459	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
460	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

FINANCE, LAND

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
461	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
462	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
463	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
464	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
465	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
466	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
467	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
468	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
469	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
470	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
471	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
472	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
473	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
474	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
475	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
476	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
477	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
478	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
479	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
480	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

DRAPERY, STORES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
481	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
482	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
483	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
484	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
485	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
486	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
487	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
488	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
489	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
490	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

FOODS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
491	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
492	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
493	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
494	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
495	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
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498	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
499	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
500	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

HOTELS, CATERERS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
501	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
502	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
503	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
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506	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
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508	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
509	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
510	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
511	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
512	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
513	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
514	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
515	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
516	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
517	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
518	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
519	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
520	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

Prices squeezed higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings on May 21. Settlement day June 1. 8Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
521	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
522	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
523	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
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526	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
527	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
528	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
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530	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100

INSURANCE

FINANCIAL TRUSTS									
531	100	100	Adnams	100	100	10			
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The candidate will have the ability to be creative and to work as part of a legal team committed to delivering a first-class service. The challenge presented by this important role will stretch the successful candidate's technical abilities fully. In return, an excellent remuneration package will be offered.

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The Department of Law at Sheffield University is one of the country's most successful law schools with a national and international reputation for teaching and research.

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We are now looking for two staff to be appointed with effect from October 1993 to work on the design and preparation of the course. Applicants should have a good honours degree in law and should be qualified solicitors with recent practical experience.

The appointees should be able to teach two of the core subjects (Business Law and practice; Conveyancing; Wills, Probate and Administration; Civil Litigation and Criminal Procedure). They should be able to teach skills and the pervasive subjects. Both appointees should be able to demonstrate experience of, or interest in, teaching.

Further particulars from Director of Personnel Services, The University of Sheffield, PO Box 584, Field Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2UH, Tel: 0742 824144. Closing date for applications: 4 June 1993. Ref: E2776.

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LAW

Getting their act together

David Faulkner argues that the principles of the Criminal Justice Act are sound and should be preserved

Kenneth Clarke, the Home Secretary, has agreed to change the Criminal Justice Act 1991 to end some of the "absurd decisions" made in the courts. The act has attracted wide criticism. Yet it was the outcome of five years of consultation. What went wrong?

Legislation and practice on sentencing had developed piecemeal for several years. Successive acts had changed the forms of sentence available to the courts and the conditions for their use. The Court of Appeal had issued a series of guideline judgments on sentences for some of the most serious offences, and other important rulings on such matters as the account to be taken of previous convictions or related offences. The Magistrates' Association had issued its own guidelines on sentences in magistrates' courts.

Several themes were common. Custody was to be avoided where possible, unless justified by the seriousness of the offence or by the need to protect the public when longer sentences might be needed. An offender should not receive a disproportionately severe sentence simply because of his or her previous record (although a good record could count in mitigation).

Good sentencing practice was thought to reflect these themes. But they were not always clearly stated, well understood or consistently applied. Courts could pick and choose their objectives for a particular sentence and take different approaches to such matters as the offender's record. The courts were consequently criticised for inconsistency.

There was also concern that custody was sometimes being used unnecessarily. Comparisons with the lower use of custody in other European countries, especially for those aged under 21, may have had some influence; but more important was the belief that custodial institutions could have a criminalising effect. Demanding and well-managed programmes in the community could be equally effective as a punishment. Nor could the government ignore the problem of prison overcrowding.

Other problems were confusion about the status of community penalties — community service was an "alter-



Critics of the 1991 Act: Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, and Kenneth Clarke, the Home Secretary

native to custody", and probation an "alternative to a sentence", but it was not clear what either description meant in practice. Fines were still an effective penalty, but their use was declining because of the inability of people on low incomes to pay fines at what was considered a realistic level. There was also concern at the apparently derisory level of fines imposed on comparatively wealthy offenders.

The government put forward its proposals in green and white papers between 1988 and 1990. The aims were to:

- Resolve the anomalies and muddles in sentencing;
- Reduce the use of custody for less serious and especially young offenders, but with longer sentences for serious violent and sexual offences;
- Establish a credible position for community sentences as penalties in their own right;
- Achieve more stability in prison populations.

These aims could not be achieved by government exhortation, which the courts would have resented; or by the courts themselves, which could only deal with individual cases as they came

before them and which would in any event have seen them as a political rather than a judicial matter. The authority of Parliament was needed, expressed in legislation to establish an up-to-date framework of sentencing principles and a new structure for community sentences and fines.

The principles chosen by the government and recommended to Parliament drew on existing legislation and on the existing appeal court rulings. They were that sentences should be proportionate to the seriousness of the offence, that more severe sentences could be imposed if they were needed to protect the public from serious harm from the offender, that the circumstances of other offences were to be taken into account where they were relevant to the seriousness of the offence and that fines should be related to the offender's means.

- Three problems emerged:
- The new set of provisions was seen by critics as clumsy and restrictive;
 - Although there had been consultation on the policy's development, there was little on the drafting of the legislation;
 - The statutory rules for applying the



Now you can judge us for yourself

Next Sunday night BBC2 will broadcast an important documentary about the way in which the judiciary is trained for its responsibilities. Amy Hardie's *Inside the Wig: Thinking Like a Judge* will make a significant contribution to public understanding of, and debate about, the judiciary's role.

In *The Judge* (1976), Lord Devlin wrote that when he was first appointed to the High Court bench in 1948, he had not appeared in a criminal court since his early days at the Bar. "I had never been inside a prison except once in an interviewing room. Two days after I had been sworn in, I was trying crime at Newcastle Assizes..."

Half a century later, judges receive more training for their responsibilities. The first step on the judicial ladder is appointment as an assistant recorder. The barrister or solicitor who satisfies the Lord Chancellor's department as to his or her suitability for appointment (a topic that deserves a separate television programme) attends a four-day training course. After spending a further week sitting in court with a senior judge, and after visiting a prison and discussions with the probation service, the new assistant recorder is then let loose on the public, trying jury cases in the crown court for four weeks a year.

Ms Hardie obtained the permission of the Lord Chancellor's department to film the four-day training course for assistant recorders. She follows the progress of five new appointees as they receive guidance from more experienced judges in how to deal with the problems of legal substance and procedure which they will face during a trial.

Inside the Wig is an intelligent and fair portrayal of the training course, illuminating its strengths and indicating its weaknesses. We are shown, in great detail, the very real assistance received by the trainee judges in the form of lectures and tutorials from senior judges and academic lawyers on the difficult questions of judgment (moral and social, as well as legal) which will need to be made on who to send to prison and for how long, on the importance of seeking to promote public confidence in the criminal justice system while being prepared to make unpopular decisions if they are legally right and on the need to understand the ethnic diversity of our society.

The film will encourage the public to understand that those who sit in judgment, whether new recruits or more senior judges, are conscientious, keen to promote justice and acutely aware of the difficulties of the task they perform. Judicial infallibility is no part of modern legal thinking. The training

course is very different from the "charm school" offered to judges in Illinois a few years ago, in which the theme was, "Be a Judge. Call the shots. You are what you wear".

It was a brave decision by the Lord Chancellor's department to allow such access by the cameras, especially in the light of the unhappy experience of some judges who suffered from what some considered the unfair editing of a television documentary with which they had co-operated. The programme is strong evidence that if you allow the public to see what judges actually do, you will promote rather than detract from the reputation of the judicial system.

Ms Hardie's film identifies the main defects of the present system of judicial training. A four-day course is inadequate to provide more than a basic knowledge of the ever-growing intricacies, and absurdities, of the criminal law, including procedure, evidence and sentencing under the Criminal Justice Act 1991. Many of those who are being trained as assistant recorders practice as family lawyers, commercial lawyers or in other fields far removed from the Old Bailey or any other Crown Court.

There remains more than a little truth to Theo Mathew's *Forensic Fable* about the Regius Professor who tries, unsuccessfully, to explain to the King of the Upper and Lower Cannibal Islands the superiority of our system of justice in which "divorce cases were usually tried by lawyers who

had been trained exclusively in the Admiralty Court". There is need for an informed debate on whether the work done by the Judicial Studies Board should be developed by the creation of a Judicial Training College at which new recruits (full-time or part-time) would spend rather longer than four days learning the skills required for the profession which they are joining.

Judicial pronouncements tend to receive newspaper publicity in inverse proportion to the wisdom they contain. The excellent news reporting of the BBC legal affairs correspondents on television and radio is handicapped by their inability to take cameras and tape recorders into court. Hence the public perception of the judge too often remains what George Orwell described in 1940: "Some gouty old bully with his mind rooted in the nineteenth century."

One of the challenges for lawyers in the 1990s is to remove misconceptions about who we are and what we do. The virtue of Ms Hardie's documentary is that what you see is what you get.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

The political genesis of the act... and a defence of it by a justice's clerk

'Don't blame the officials'

It was in the moated splendour of Leeds Castle in Kent in 1987 that the process leading to the Criminal Justice Act started. Douglas Hurd called his policy advisers and Home Office ministers to a meeting to plan the department's strategy for the Parliament only weeks after the general election.

The aim was to reduce crime, keep less serious offenders out of prison, satisfy public demand for a crackdown, by tougher sentences, on sexual and violent crimes and to achieve greater stability in the prison population.

Although David Faulkner, then deputy secretary in charge of the criminal department, was a key figure in driving the policy forward, political sources deny that successive Tory home secretaries were taken in by the "liberal" ethos said to permeate the Home Office. "It's crazy to blame the officials," one source said. "Mr Hurd fully supported the twin-track approach of tough sentences for serious offenders and punishment in the community for less serious offenders."

There were persuasive arguments supporting the strategy. Ministers were convinced by research indicating that prison did little but make "bad people worse", but the Treasury was alarmed at the cost of locking up people. There was also a fear of disturbances in crowded jails and a belief that the government could not take on the Prison Officers' Association. Disquiet was also growing over sentencing inconsistencies. Daily planning of the policy was left to John Patten, who emphasised the toughness of community-style punishments and insisted that parents take responsibility for children's criminal activities.

By the time David Waddington succeeded Mr Hurd as Home Secretary, the bill's outline had been prepared, and Mr Waddington left little imprint on the measure.

In Parliament, the Bill, drafted by civil servants led by Robert Fulton, met little opposition. Preparations for the act's implementation were led by Joan MacNaughton, who has since become Kenneth Clarke's principal private secretary and will see much of the paperwork dealing with efforts to change unit fines and the controversial section dealing with offenders' previous convictions.

RICHARD FORD

'Criticism is often unfair'

The attacks on the act are in many ways astonishing. It is the product of years of consultation and thought, and is based mostly on pre-existing principles. The act places the courts in a difficult position. Until there is further legislation, they must administer a law that the responsible minister says requires revisiting and changing. What will this do to judicial confidence in the executive?

Have critics fully understood the discrimination the act permits between a "one off" and a frequent offender? A good record entitles the defendant to a "discount", but committing more offences results in the progressive loss of this mitigation until the offender eventually receives the maximum the crime deserves.

What would the Home Secretary put in its place? Does he favour ever-increasing punishments, even for minor offences? This would lead to a larger prison population of persistent, petty offenders.

The objection of Lord Taylor, Lord Chief Justice, that the act fetters judges' discretion and puts them in a "straitjacket"

is also unclear. There are some arbitrary rules, principally on the main sentencing thresholds. Many offenders appear before courts on numerous charges. The act states, however, that when deciding whether a case is "serious enough" for a community service sentence or so serious that only a custodial sentence can be justified, the sentence may aggregate no more than two of the present offences. But even these provisions do no more than prescribe the approach. Parliament deliberately did not identify where any sentencing band should start or end, leaving that to courts.

Few of the act's other provisions could be fairly described as limiting discretion. The act does not state what the sentence should be in a given case. It merely imposes a test of seriousness to ensure that the penalty is in proportion to the harm done and the offender's culpability for it.

I do not claim that the act has no faults; the unit fine system, in its present form, has deserved to be criticised. But the act has received more criticism than it deserves. Parliament must show restraint in rectifying the defects — or risk a return to inconsistency.

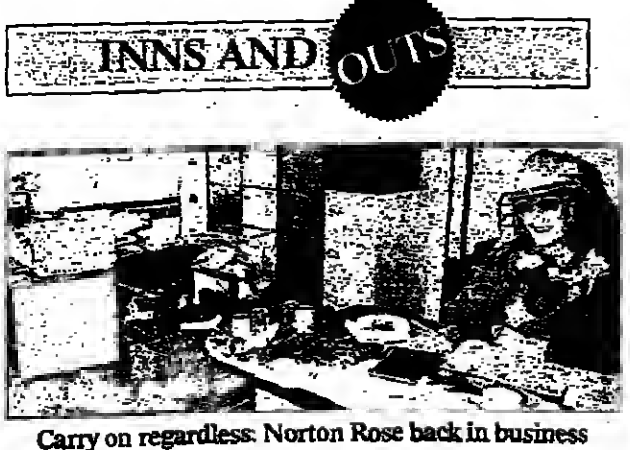
ADRIAN TURNER

● The author, a barrister, is clerk to the justices at Eccles in Greater Manchester.

Spirit of the Blitz

NORTON Rose, the City law firm, was among the many City firms bombed out two weeks ago. Its Bishopsgate House building will take six months to repair. But the firm says that 80 per cent of staff were back at their desks by last week: three buildings were able to be cleaned up enough for use, and in place of the badly damaged Bishopsgate House, the firm has leased another building. Tony Kay, managing partner, says: "We have been able to maintain service to clients pretty much as normal."

Summing up
ACCOUNTANTS facing disciplinary action from their professional bodies often plead guilty rather than meet



Carry on regardless: Norton Rose back in business

the costs of a full defence. But free legal advice could be on hand if a project by Martin Glick, partner in Silver Levene, a London certified accountancy firm, succeeds.

Mr Glick has put up £20,000 towards the costs of the Accountancy Defence Union, an organisation to be launched this month to

provide accountants with access to lawyers for a £90 annual subscription. Mr Glick hopes for 3,000 members in a year's time and believes the union will fill a gap.

Care challenge
THE predicted legal challenge of community care assessments made under the

Community Care Act 1990 looks likely to begin. Social services departments have been anxiously awaiting judicial reviews of their plans for individuals in their care.

Now Mark Hazell, a 22-year-old with learning difficulties, has the go-ahead for a judicial review of Avon County Council's decision not to place him in the residential home of his own choosing, but in one that costs nearly £3,000 a year less. The case is due to be heard on May 24 and is expected to help clear up the ambiguity surrounding the health department's guidelines on assessments.

● In respect of the article headlined "A Great Money-go-round" in the Law pages on May 4, we are asked to point out that all former Mirror staff continue to receive their pensions and the pass service pensions of current staff are being funded by the company.

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32 LAW REPORT

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 11 1993

THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 11 1993

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Assignee entitled to compensation

Deposit Protection Board v Dalia and Another
Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Sir Michael Fox
[Judgment May 6]

An equitable assignee of the whole or part of a bank deposit with an authorised bank under an assignment made before July 30, 1991 was *prima facie* entitled to compensation from the Deposit Protection Board as a depositor under section 58(1) of the Banking Act 1987.

The Court of Appeal so held. Lord Justice Simon Brown dissenting, when dismissing an appeal by the second defendant, Barclays Bank plc and a cross-appeal by the plaintiffs, the Deposit Protection Board, against a judgment of Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, [The Times July 9, 1992; 1992 3 WLR 945] whereby he declared in favour of the first defendant, the claimant, Mrs Varsha Dalia, on a point of law raised by all three parties as to the liability of the Deposit Protection Board to the assignees of deposits with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA under assignments made between July 5, 1991 when a petition to wind up the bank was presented and July 30, 1991 when the Banking Act 1987 (Meaning of Depositor Order) (SI 1991 No 1776) was made.

Section 58 of the Banking Act 1987 provides: "(1) ... if at any time an institution becomes insolvent, the board shall as soon as practicable pay out of the fund in each depositor who has a protected deposit with that institution an amount equal to three-quarters of his protected deposit." By section 60(1) the protected deposit was limited to a maximum of £20,000.

Mr Michael Brindle, QC and Mr Bankim Thakur for Barclays Bank, in a representative capacity; Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC and Mr Philip Sales for Mrs Dalia, also in a representative capacity; Mr John Jarvis, QC and Jonathan Nash for the Deposit Protection Board, supporting the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said the board administered a scheme under the 1987 Act to alleviate hardship when a bank became insolvent. The present difficulty had arisen because the Act contained no definition of "depositor". More particularly the question was raised whether the assignee of part of a bank customer's deposit was a depositor within the meaning of section 58(1).

Following the Bank of England announcement that it was seeking a winding-up order against BCCI, some 50 or more depositors, acting on the advice of an enterprising firm of accountants, had signed transfers from their deposits in

favour of relatives and friends totalling several million pounds.

A person with a bank account of, say, £100,000 could assign £20,000 to each of five friends who could be trusted, so that the total compensation payable by the fund would be £75,000 rather than £15,000. On July 30, by statutory instrument (SI 1991 No 1776), the government excluded assignments made after the presentation of a winding-up petition from the Deposit Protection Scheme.

The question of law involved was to be answered on the assumption that the assignments were genuine and valid transactions and that there was no arrangement or understanding that an assignee would hold for the assignor any compensation received by him from the fund.

Barclays Bank had originally argued that the person to whom the bank was liable under section 58(1) must also be the person who made the deposit in the first place. But that construction was unsatisfactory because in the case of statutory assignments it would have excluded both the deposit maker and the assignee and because it would have made compensation impossible for the trustee in bankruptcy of an insolvent account holder and for the executors or personal representatives of a deceased account holder.

It seemed singularly improbable that Parliament intended to exclude those categories from protection. Given that the claimant need not be the original depositor, what had to be the nature of his entitlement against the bank to make him a "depositor" qualifying for protection under the scheme?

Lord Irvine contended that a depositor was anyone directly entitled in law or equity against the bank to money standing on deposit, including equitable assignees. Barclays and the board contended that depositors were only those to whom the bank owed a legal liability.

The authorities supported the proposition that an assignment of part of a debt could take effect only as an equitable assignment, the assignor retaining the legal ownership of the relevant chose in action. Once notice of an equitable assignment was given to the debtor he could not thereafter deal in the property in a way inconsistent with the assigned interest, for instance by making payment to the assignor.

However, the assignee could not give a good discharge in respect of the assigned part of the debt nor could he sue the debtor in judgment without first joining the assignor as a party. Conversely the assignor had to join the assignee in any proceedings brought against the debtor.

His Lordship rejected Lord Irvine's argument that once notice

of an equitable assignment was given to the debtor he ceased to be liable at all to the assignor. There remained a legal liability to the assignor, although one which the debtor met only at his peril. Nor could his Lordship accept the argument of Mr Jarvis that the bank had no liability in law to the assignee.

Both the assignor and the assignee were persons to whom the bank might properly be said to be liable in respect of the assigned part of a debt. Given that in respect of that sum there could only be one depositor, the question became which, the assignor or the assignee?

His Lordship set out the competing arguments and concluded that the differences between legal and equitable assignments were decisive. They were:

First, that whereas after a legal assignment only one person, the assignee, could be said to have any entitlement against the bank, in the case of an equitable assignment the bank remained in debt to both assignor and assignee.

That was not merely a technical distinction, its consequence was that whereas to exclude legal assignees from the scheme would leave no one entitled to protection in respect of the assigned account, in the case of equitable assignments, the assignor could still claim.

Second, even after the assignment of part of a credit balance, there remained but one single debt owed by the bank, and it was why the transaction could not be by way of statutory assignment in the first place.

In his Lordship's judgment it was easier to describe as a "depositor" under the scheme the new legal owner of an entire credit balance, than the new equitable creditor of part only of that balance. To describe the equitable assignee as a depositor would mean that in respect of one single debt there would be two or more quite distinct "depositors" under the Act.

Third, it was well nigh inconceivable that anyone would assign part of a bank balance for any other reason than to recover the limitation on recovery under the statutory scheme.

His Lordship concluded that only those to whom the bank was legally liable were depositors under the scheme and the sum of the depositor's legal, rather than equitable, claims against the bank defined the size of his protected deposit under section 60(1).

His Lordship would have allowed the appeal, but since the other members of the court had taken a different view the appeal would be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL recognised that the differences

between legal and equitable assignments were real but did not consider that in the context of the case they justified a fundamental distinction being drawn so that the board was liable to one and not the other.

Had there been no insolvency, each and every equitable assignee could have sued the bank to demand that it should pay out whatever sum had been assigned to the individual assignee. The bank, once given notice of the assignment, would have had no defence, even if it had paid the assignor any part of the sum assigned without the authority of the assignee.

In his Lordship's judgment the scheme of the Act was that the bank, as compensating authority, should stand in the shoes of the defaulting bank and he could sue no person if, subject to the financial limits, it would be in any better position vis-à-vis equitable assignees than the bank would have been but for the insolvency.

What had been done was plainly a device, but no argument had been addressed to the court that because the assignments were a device they did not attract protection. The board had reserved its position as to the true nature of the transactions and that might or might not lead to a different result on full trial.

His Lordship took the view that the Vice-Chancellor had been right to make the declaration that he did and the appeals would be dismissed.

SIR MICHAEL FOX, agreeing with Lord Justice Russell, said that an equitable assignee of a debt or part of a debt who had given proper notice of the assignment to the debtor, could recover the assigned amount from the debtor by an ordinary action in the courts.

He had to join the assignor as a party. That was merely for the protection of the assignor in case there were defences he could raise to the validity of the assignment. A legal assignee could sue without joining the assignor as a party.

In his Lordship's judgment, the rights conferred by the general law upon an equitable assignee were not sufficiently different from those of a legal assignee to justify the conclusion that an equitable assignee was not entitled to protection.

The crucial matter to any assignee was whether he could recover the debt. The practical position was that provided he gave notice, which the legal assignee also had to do, if it was an unimpeachable assignment, he would be treated as a legal assignee as to the debt or part of a debt assigned to him.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Ashurst Morris Crisp; Clifford Chance.

Northern General Hospital National Health Service Trust v Gale
Before Judge Popple QC, Mr D. O. Gladwin and Miss A. Mackie
[Judgment April 28]

When holding that a student nurse did not have his continuity of employment preserved when the hospital at which he worked became a health service trust, the Employment Appeal Tribunal expressed concern over the effect of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 upon the continuity of service of nurses employed by a regional health authority who transferred to trust hospitals within the area of that authority and who would lose continuity of service.

The tribunal allowed an appeal by the Northern General Hospital National Health Service Trust from a decision of a Sheffield industrial tribunal on November 26, 1992, that the employee, Mr Peter Gale, a full-time student nurse, had two years continuous employment for the purposes of bringing a claim of unfair dismissal.

Section 6 of the 1990 Act provides: "(1) ... this section applies to any person who, immediately before an NHS trust's operational date - (a) is employed by a health authority to work solely as, or for the purposes of, a hospital or other establishment ... which is to become the responsibility of the trust."

"(3) ... the contract of employment between a person to whom this section applies and the health authority by whom he is employed shall have effect from the operational date as if originally made between him and the NHS trust."

Mr John Bowers for the hospital trust; Mr Robin Allen and Mr Thomas Kibling for the employee.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the employee was employed in November 1987 by the Sheffield Health Authority. His contract provided that he would undertake clinical experience within the Sheffield health district or where necessary in other health authorities' clinical areas as designated.

From July 1990 he worked solely at the Northern General Hospital. In February 1991 he applied for a permanent post, his first choice of hospital being the Northern General.

In December 1990 an enabling order established the hospital as an NHS trust from April 1, 1991. On April 9 the employee was offered employment as a full-time staff nurse from May 3, 1991.

In December 1990 an enabling order established the hospital as an NHS trust from April 1, 1991. On April 9 the employee was offered employment as a full-time staff nurse from May 3, 1991.

Section 6(1) of the 1990 Act provides: "(1) ... this section applies to any person who, immediately before an NHS trust's operational date - (a) is employed by a health authority to work solely as, or for the purposes of, a hospital or other establishment ... which is to become the responsibility of the trust."

"(3) ... the contract of employment between a person to whom this section applies and the health authority by whom he is employed shall have effect from the operational date as if originally made between him and the NHS trust."

Intentional homelessness through fraud

Regina v Barnet London Borough Council, Ex parte Raghuoputh
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Rose
[Judgment May 5]

An applicant possessed of her home as a result of having obtained a mortgage by deliberately giving false information to the building society was intentionally homeless under section 60(1) of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by a local housing authority, Barnet London Borough Council, from a decision of Mr Robert Carruthers, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, in September 1992, whereby he had quashed the council's decision that the applicant, Padmaben Raghuoputh, was intentionally homeless and would not be offered permanent accommodation.

Section 60 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) A person becomes homeless intentionally if he deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which he ceases to occupy accommodation which is available for his occupation."

"(3) For the purposes of subsection (1) ... an act or omission in good faith on the part of a person who was unaware of any relevant fact shall not be treated as deliberate."

Mr J. C. Harper, QC, for the council; Mr James Bowen for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that the applicant in 1987, wishing to raise money for a business venture, obtained £46,000 by mortgaging her flat with the Skipton Building Society. In so doing, the applicant, who was unemployed, deliberately gave false information to the building society. She stated that she was in work and earning £18,000 a year.

The business venture was a disaster resulting in the building society taking proceedings against the applicant and in 1990 obtaining possession of the property. The applicant, as a homeless person, applied to the council for accommodation. Section 60(1) of the 1985 Act was concerned with

question: it required the council to identify the cause of the homelessness and then to ask themselves whether that cause was the result of a deliberate act by the applicant.

The judge's approach to that part of the case was correct. He said that the council had been "entitled to look at the whole course of events which led to the eventual dispossession, starting as it did with the application for a mortgage ... and the fraudulent statement as to earnings which enabled the applicant to obtain that money. I do not find it possible to say there is any error of law in the view that that chain of events led to the ultimate homelessness."

However, the judge had quashed the council's decision because of the provisions of section 60(3) whereby "an act or omission in good faith on the part of a person who was unaware of any relevant fact" was not to be treated as "deliberate" under section 60(1).

The judge had held that the giving of the false information was

part of a transaction designed to lead to the acquisition of a business and it was that transaction as a whole which set in train the events leading to the dispossession. He concluded that the applicant's dishonesty related to the declaration of her earnings and not to the nature of the business, there being nothing to suggest that she did other than genuinely believe she was buying a valuable business.

The judge's observations could not survive the proper construction of section 60(3). The act of good faith that was being referred to in that subsection was the same act as that referred to in subsection (1). The act which the council relied on was the provision of the false information, the act in respect of which the allegation of good faith had to be established.

It was not possible to hold that a fraudulent act such as that done by the applicant was done in good faith.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE and LORD JUSTICE ROSE agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Graeme Cree, Hendon; Iqbal & Co.



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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 11 1993



NEW MUSIC page 34
Sir Harrison Birtwistle
gives the critics plenty
to chew on with his
new orchestral work

ARTS

ROCK page 35
Sexy, subtle, smooth
and seductive, Sade
made strong men
weep at the Albert Hall



Home is where the art is

Caryl Phillips,
whose latest novel
is published this
week, talks to
Harry Eyres about
the unsettling side
of literary success

The telephone rings in Caryl Phillips's unassuming terraced house in Shepherd's Bush. It is an estate agent from Amherst, Massachusetts, checking mortgage arrangements on what will be the Caribbean-born English novelist's third house. He already has a place on St Kitts, the island of his birth (he came to England "at the portable age of 12 weeks") and spends his life commuting between Amherst, where he teaches every other year, London and the Caribbean.

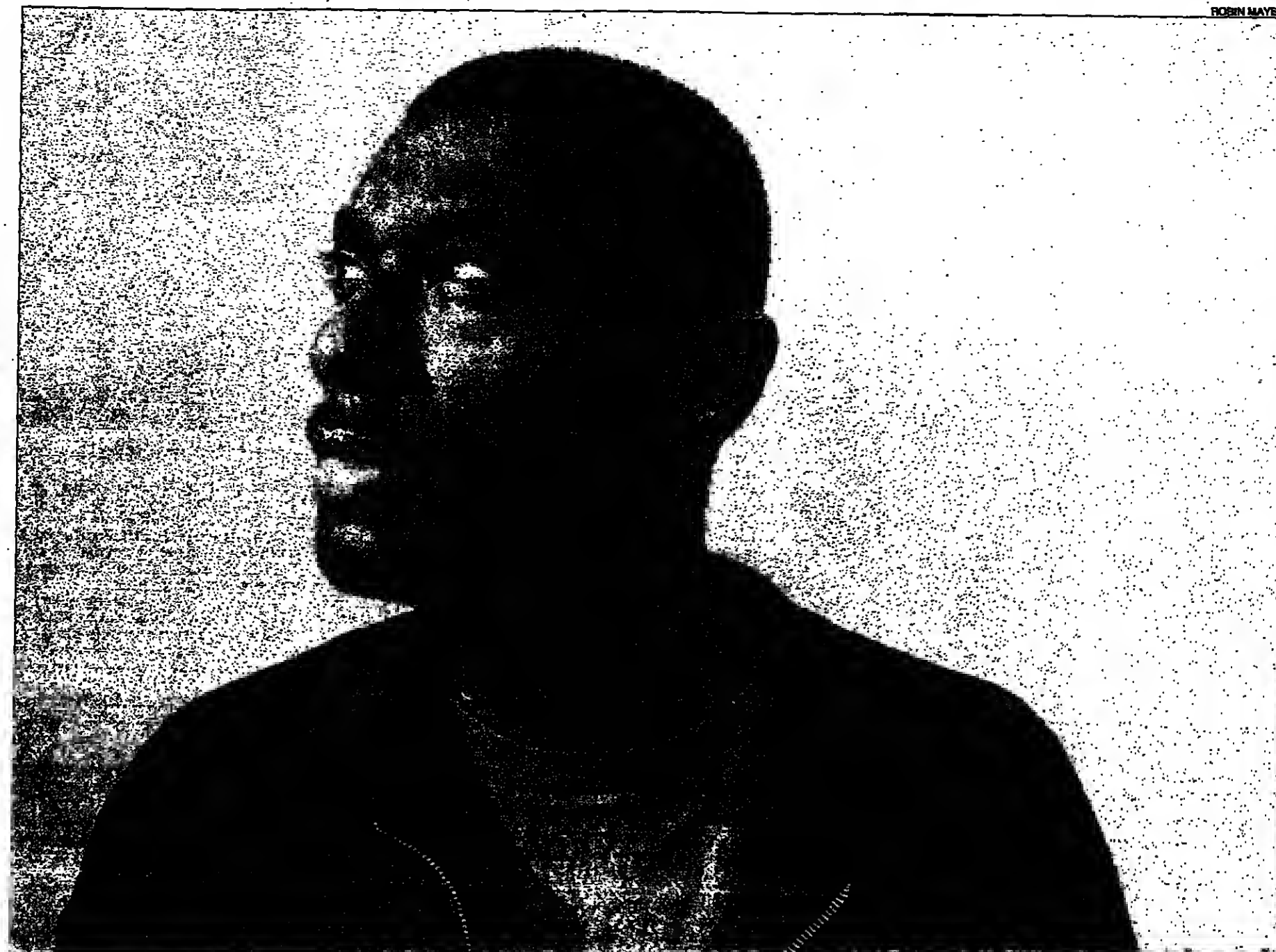
Three addresses inspire confidence, even in writers, as Lady Bracknell almost said. She might not have known what to make of Phillips as a suitor for Gwendolen (black men with Yorkshire accents not being exactly up her street), but she would have had to admit that the chap was doing quite well for himself.

Phillips (who was born in 1958) seems to have one of the most richly developing careers of any British writer of his generation. Three plays and television work came in the early Eighties; then two novels about West Indian emigrants (*The Final Passage*, *A State of Independence*), widely praised for their stylistic beauty and contained emotional depth; and then a travel book (*The European Tribe*, fired by fierce indignation against racism).

After that came a move into more ambitious, fractured, narratives, delving into the history of slavery and other diasporas with *Cambridge*, about an upper-class plantation owner's daughter and a slave called Cambridge; and *Higher Ground*, a three-part novel combining the stories of a black slave-factor, a black convict in the American South and a Jewish refugee in England, which was less well received by the critics. Now, as the culmination of this phase, there is the novel *Crossing the River*.

Phillips has become part of an élite group of itinerant international scribes cosseted by American academia. The names of Heaney, Brodsky and especially Walcott (a small landscape painting by the St Lucian, Nobel prize-winning poet hangs in Phillips's sitting-room) crop up quite frequently in conversation. But aren't there dangers, both of rootlessness and excessive cocooning, in the life-style?

Phillips answers the cocooning accusation first. "That's why I only teach every other year, and I only teach undergraduates. Once you



Caryl Phillips: in the course of a richly developing career, he has become part of an élite group of itinerant international scribes cosseted by American academia

cross the border-line between academia and being a creative writer, you're dead. But I adore teaching undergraduates. I learn a lot about American society from them. Encountering America when I was 20 changed me radically and I think anyone who has the chance to live and work there for a time would be mad not to take it. It's an exciting place — and they got rid of Reagan and Bush."

Rootlessness is a more complicated question which leads close to the heart of Phillips's identity as a writer. "All the moving around certainly makes a mockery of a personal life. I mean I'm 35, unmarried and have no kids, and my last relationship fell on stony ground because I was never there."

Why not settle in "one dear perpetual place"? But where would that be? Leeds, where he spent his boyhood and where his mother, just retired as a lecturer at Leeds University, still lives? Oxford, where he went to college and toyed with a

DPhil? London? Or St Kitts? "Home is a word I never, ever use. There may come a day when I feel comfortable using it but not now. Growing up in England in the Sixties and Seventies, that

heavy time of Enoch Powell and the Notting Hill riots, created an anxiety in me and others about how we fitted into Britain. When I looked in the mirror I saw someone who was told to go back where he came from. Those things cut deep, when you're a kid and you speak with a broad Yorkshire accent and you're mad keen about Leeds United — and then, every now and then, someone comes along and tells you to go back where you came from."

Phillips did try going back to St Kitts, in the mid-1980s. "At some atavistic level it would have been nice to go back to the Caribbean and feel that this society wants me, I need them, and this is where I'm going to spend the rest of my life."

**'Rootlessness
is close to
the heart of
his identity
as a writer'**

It obviously did not turn out like that. *A State of Independence*, his second novel, is a beautifully poised but bleak account of a 39-year-old English West Indian returning to the island he left at 19, as it prepares for independence for rather moves from colonial dependence on Britain to colonial dependence on the US, and finding that he feels as alienated among his fellow-islanders as among the English.

Phillips may not have a home, but he has a fictional territory, and one which has expanded considerably since the first two novels. *Crossing the River* is, with *Higher Ground*, his most wide-ranging and ambitious novel to date.

Its multiple narratives may at first appear scattered and disconnected. They concern a freed American slave settling in Liberia in the 1840s and the master who goes to look for him; a black American woman-slave attempting to cross the United States from east to west in the 1860s ("one in three Wild West cowboys was black, but you don't see that in the films," observes Phillips); an English slave-ship captain in the 1750s; and finally a working-class (white) woman meeting a black American GI in northern England during the second world war.

Embracing all these stories are two passages, opening and closing the book, of poignant lyricism, more overtly emotional than is usual with this elegant prose stylist. In them a father speaks of his loss

and guilt at selling his three children — the three black protagonists — into slavery.

Phillips bristles at being cast as a writer whose major themes are slavery and race. "In all my work I think I'm concerned with family and the fracturing of family relationships that's caused by displacement. That dislocation in its most vigorous and unpleasant form is things like slavery and the Holocaust. But slavery is only one aspect of my main concern, which is the diasporan fall-out many people suffer — not just people of African origin."

And as if to prove that he is not to be pinned, moth-like, to some convenient label, Phillips mentions his latest project, which is a return to drama: a contemporary reworking for the Lyric, Hammersmith, of Harold Brighouse's heavy old repertory theatre standby, *Hobson's Choice*.

● *Crossing the River* is published on Thursday by Bloomsbury (£14.99)

EARLY MUSIC

Minstrels in the Minster

With its narrow medieval streets, magnificent Gothic Minster and wealth of historical buildings, the Humber-side town of Beverley is an ideal venue for an early music festival. There has, in fact, been one for six years now, and if it has not yet the high profile of its sister festival in York, it is still steadily consolidating its reputation as an essential event in the early musician's calendar.

More than that, the Beverley Early Music Festival represents not simply an invasion of specialists, playing to fellow enthusiasts: it also aims to involve the community. This year's programme included a concert by the University of Hull Early Music Ensemble, which offers a platform to student performers on period instruments, as well as a workshop introducing children to Renaissance music, and an open-air evocation of the world of Bruegel, staged by Fairfax.

This stimulation of local interest contributed to the success of the two main events, where the Minster was packed with appreciative audiences for *Purcell's Fairy Queen*, given by the Gabrieli Consort and Players under Paul McCreesh, and for a concert by His Majesties Sagbuts & Cornets.

The Fairy Queen was presented with very minimal costumes and props, but with a wittily rhyming linking narration provided, and delivered by Andrew Pincock.

With its masques — including that of the Chinese garden — interpolated in each act, the dramatic action is less than coherent at the best of times. But the Scene of the Drunken Poet (Charles Gibbs) and the pastoral dialogue of Coridon and Mopsa (Gibbs and Mark le Brocq) were staged with enough humour to compensate for the lack of action.

Some of the singing was initially uncertain, but as the difficulties of the Minster's acoustics were adjusted to, there emerged some splendid performances from Tessa Bonner, Charles Daniels, Mark le Brocq and Peter Harvey in particular.

Credit belongs, too, with McCreesh, for he knows how to provide a flexibly phrased accompaniment, with melting resolutions of dissonances, yet without ever allowing a number to linger unduly. His excellent players respond instinctively to such direction.

If the Minster proved a mixed blessing for *The Fairy Queen*, it came into its own for His Majesties Sagbuts & Cornets. As the fading sunlight glinting on the richly-carved stonework of the interior was replaced, later in the evening, by candlelight, an unforgettable evocative atmosphere provided the backdrop for the mellifluous sonorities of the ancestors of the modern trumpet and trombone.

BARRY MILLINGTON

BRIGHTON FESTIVAL: Richard Morrison on George Lloyd's latest; Nadine Meisner on the Limón Dance Company

Tunes triumphant

On my left an elderly man in tweeds shouted "A masterpiece!" and sprang to his feet, most un-weedlike. On my right a Scots lass exclaimed "I'll definitely be buying the CD of that," and strode off purposefully, possibly to form an all-night queue outside a record shop.

Not often does new music have this effect. Respectful tolerance is common: British concert-goers have impeccable manners. Sometimes there is approval. But raving monster-loony ecstasy? This can only mean one thing: a George Lloyd world premiere.

Lloyd, 80 next month, is a late Romantic — very late, of course. He writes big confident tunes with ripe tonal harmonies; he assembles luscious orchestral sonorities; and his music invariably speaks with emotion. So naturally he was ostracised for decades by a musical establishment dogmatically obsessed with serialism and all its lovely offspring.

Now the climate has changed. Lloyd may still be regarded as a kind of freak-whom-time-forgets who those who raise a glass to Pierre Boulez and his merry chums. But he is getting performances at last, and has responded with an amazing Indian summer of creativity. Far from being the last romantic in the 20th century, he may well become the first in the 21st.

The new Symphonic Mass has typical strengths and weaknesses. On the plus side are the rich, crowded textures, full of startling effects: the jangling tuned percussion that explodes in the Gloria, for example, or the Saucius's colossal climax. The Kyrie is a strident cry of anguish: the Credo begins cloaked

in uncertainty but rallies round a tune that is as wholesome as apple-pie. Searing brass chords mark the Crucifixus: a riot of flute trills denote the resurrection. Austere this music is not.

Yet there are miscalculations. Is it a good idea to start the Agnus Dei as a slow fox-trot? The bathos is never dissipated. Some of the choral writing elsewhere imposes strain for no good reason. And a pleasant orchestral offertorium, featuring violin and cello solos, has no obvious connection with anything.

All these pros and cons are overshadowed, however, by the overwhelming retrospective of Lloyd's style. It demands a fierce response: joy or scorn. For this Brighton audience, and many others, it clearly presented no problem — quite the opposite. Lloyd speaks in a language they understand.

But music critics tend to worry about "where music is going". Full-steam backwards appears to be the answer. It is strange to think that by the year 2000 musical taste may well have reverted to exactly where it was in 1900.

Lloyd was his own conductor, and inspired the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the well-drilled Brighton Festival Chorus to a full-blooded (if occasionally unhinged) performance. Earlier, John Lill had been the immaculate soloist in Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. And Lloyd had warmed up for the "everything including the kitchen sink" nature of his own orchestration by opening with Elgar's hilariously grandiose orchestration of Bach's Organ Fantasia and Fugue in C minor.

Memories of a legend

There are those who say the Limón Dance Company is not what it used to be before its founder's death in 1972. But from those of us with shorter memories, thank you, Brighton Festival, for bringing a legendary American company which has not visited Britain since the 1950s.

In its 21 years without José Limón, the company seems to have conserved his ethos and continued his practice of importing other choreographers. What a pity, though, that the two Brighton programmes did not include anything by the wonderful Doris Humphrey with whom Limón founded his company in 1946.

Instead, we saw two contemporary pieces, pleasant and competent if not exactly masterpieces. Phyllis Lambur's *Cleave* had a quirky single-mindedness that set group lines joggling with unwavering minimalism and juxtaposed them with freer duos. Carlos Orta's *Volver found safety* in the tried and tested formula of a woman emoting on a chair. It owed much of its merit to its seasoned performers: Carla Maxwell (the present artistic director) and, as the man who later joins her, the choreographer, Orta — who has an inestimable artistry.

These dancers surely serve Limón's memory well, as does the much younger, but fluent Paul Dennis. Limón, both as choreographer and as charismatic performer, did much to elevate the stature of male dancers. He created Brighton's opening piece, *Mazurkas* (1970) for an all-male cast, composing six athletic, heroic solos, framed within group dances. Defined as a "paean to the heroic defenders of the American patrimony", it pays



Nina Watt and Carlos Orta dancing José Limón's celebrated *The Moor's Pavane*, based on *Othello*

homage to Native Americans with richly evocative choreography.

Watching, I became aware that today's new rock is perhaps not so new, and certainly rarely as good. *The Unsung* has no music, yet unlike most dance to silence I did not feel uncomfortably aware of it. Perhaps it is because Limón's choreography contains such strong internal rhythm. This has to be one reason for the man's greatness — along with the lucid legibility and sheer originality of his writing.

Another terrific piece, *Mazurkas* (1958), is set to Chopin. This time the choreographic phrasing gives visual form to the musical cadences. Its highly individual succession of duets, solos and ensembles pre-dates Jerome Robbins's celebrated

Chopin ballet, *Dances at a Gathering*, and stands as its equal. *Dances for Isadora*, on the other hand, does suffer from comparison with Frederick Ashton's *Brahms Waltzes* — until, that is, the sudden final twist. Carla Maxwell, clad in black, abandons the stage persona and Chopin music of her predecessors; she dances the last solo as an off-stage Isadora, stricken by grief.

The two remaining pieces have been made familiar here by other companies. *There is a Time*, with its air of medieval rusticity, and the *Othello*-inspired *The Moor's Pavane*. These presumably are reckoned to be his most marketable pieces. I would disagree, and I long to sample the other 69 that he choreographed.

Burning questions

TELEVISION: *Panorama* peers through the fog of confusion surrounding the tobacco industry

I blame it all on Bob Newhart. That sketch about Sir Walter Raleigh phoning home about the discovery of tobacco was broadcast so regularly on the wireless of my childhood — was it a two-way family favourite? — that ultimately I knew it by heart. What else was there to do on Sundays, besides play with the ash-trays, roll cigarettes in a special machine, watch the smoke rise, and wonder vaguely what a two-way family would look like? Anyway, "Don't tell me, Walt! — that's how it went — 'You stick it in your ear!'"

The rather striking mental image of someone with a cigarette protruding from the side of his head came back with a vengeance last night, during Tom Mangold's *Panorama* investigation into the tobacco business, entitled "Pack of Lies" (BBC1). Focusing mainly on the American industry's own Council for Tobacco Research, situated in a swanky Manhattan skyscraper to which Mangold was inexpressibly denied access, this was a classic tale of propaganda. "Cigarettes are completely harmless" might be the implicit message of this research; but with the warning "So long as you stick them in your ear" in tiny writing underneath.

The point of the report was that in the 40 years since lung cancer was first linked with cigarettes, the tobacco industry has funded its own scientific research which — surprise, surprise — has merely thrown a reeking yellow haze of confusion around the subject. Mangold interviewed CTR-funded research scientists whose work was abruptly called to a halt when it threatened to get too damaging.

Particularly worrying was the case of the wheezing 40-day bunny-rabbits who were called off the job once they contracted emphysema and were never seen again.

The professional image of the scientist was not greatly enhanced by these astounding instances of naivety (I mean, what did they expect? But the image of the "product liability lawyer" came off far, far worse. Since the greatest fear of the tobacco companies is not that people should die from smoking (heaven forbid), but that, with their last breath, smokers would sue the companies, the lawyers control the whole shebang. *Panorama* had evidence that lawyers successfully persuaded tobacco companies not to launch "safer" or "cleaner" cigarettes (after fortunes had been spent on research and development), because such a marketing angle would "concede the shortcomings" of the traditional cigarette.

But if lawyers have kept them safe, it may well be other lawyers — representing the increasingly litigious American consumer — who may penetrate the smokescreen. Much of the evidence put forward in last night's programme had been unearthed (or so one deduced) by wise guys in braces trying to win millions in compensation.

If it can be proved that research was hushed up, the case gains strength. Which is why, if you know any ex-research rabbits with a chronic cough in the mornings, there is an American lawyer somewhere who just can't wait to hear from you.

LYNNE TRUSS

THEATRE: A country home for Fugard's soul-searching ... romance in a scrapyard ... and a life on the ropes

Watermill on a wheel of fortune

For a private theatre to offer a season as long as Stratford's takes hard work, luck and arm-twisting, Jeremy Kingston finds

Deep in the Berkshire countryside, where ducks scramble out of a trout stream and go waddling across a lawn, Jill Fraser offers a Danish pastry to go with the morning coffee. Sunlight floods in through windows on two walls. A page from the Domesday Book is framed above the fireplace.

The setting is affably assured Home Counties, but a young chap tiptoes in from time to time with a murmured enquiry: men pass the windows carrying what looks like scenery, and across the lawn a couple are making their way to the box office.

And that is because there stands in this idyllically rural valley, a Georgian paper mill that was converted into a theatre 30 years ago. Fraser, and her husband James Sargent, administrative director of the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican, bought the building in 1961 from the family who had converted it, and in her 12 years as artistic and managing director she has lengthened its season to ten months, from April to January. Her Watermill Theatre at Bagnor, four miles from Newbury, seats only 202, but its season is now as long as the RSC's at Stratford.

"If you've worked in theatre all your life and love it, owning a theatre is a dream come true," she

says. Not everyone would agree. Most actors would find the paperwork and necessary arm-twisting a nightmare. "Oh yes, but I took a stage management course at the Central School. That has always been my side of the business. Stage managing at Stratford, production manager at the Other Place."

After that came 18 months with Actors' Theatre, the co-operative set up by Ian McKellen and Edward

Fetherbridge; then co-administrator of Cambridge Theatre Company and finally the Watermill. Her entire life has been in the theatre — and not just her working life. Her parents did the clichéd thing of first meeting in stage, in the old Prince's Theatre (now the Shaftesbury) during a post-war revival of

'We'd like to pay our actors more; we'd like to tour more'

Merrie England. In *A Star Is Born* Judy Garland was born in a trunk at the Prince's Theatre, but that was in another country — Pocatello, Idaho, in fact. Fraser's first glimpse of the world did not develop the cliché to that extent, but the theatre was always in her blood.

Now she sweats blood for her theatre. The weathered brick building could hardly look more consolingly English. The tiles of the roof are speckled with golden lichen. The new fire escape for the dressing rooms descends past an ivy-covered walnut tree. A willow grows aslant the brook. A restaurant occupies



"The more you invest, the more work we can generate. Last year we handed the government £80,000". Jill Fraser on the economic advantages of her Watermill Theatre

what used to be the tithing barn: the actors stay in the former stables or rent rooms in the village. A lazy comparison would be with some Ealing film where a small, closely knit community struggles to preserve its local eccentricity.

A struggle there is — no theatrical enterprise in the country can avoid it — but without a scrap of the cosy muddle so comfortably suggested by Ealing. The Watermill is not a rich woman's toy but her occupation, and her business sense is angered by what she sees as shortsighted funding policies. (Newbury, it should be remembered, has just left the Tory fold.)

Local, district and county funding, together with a grant from Southern Arts, provide the theatre with slightly more than £50,000. 11 per cent of the money required to mount the summer season (six plays this year), ten days of music hall, evenings of jazz and the Christmas show. Box office receipts bring in 60 per cent and the remainder must be found through sponsorship and fund-raising — which is where the arm-twisting comes in.

"The more you invest, the more work we can generate," Fraser says. "Last year we handed the government £80,000 in taxes and Nat-

ional Insurance through providing work for actors and stage crew. And then there's the money generated by the restaurant, and all the suppliers of food and materials. Spend more and you get back more than you spend. I wish people could see this basic law of economics, because we have the potential for doing so much more. When we received an Arts Council incentive award we were able to improve our publicity by just a little bit — but the box office took off. In the same way, if we approach a company and offer them a proposal, we have to be able to do it with the professional expertise they expect.

"Athol Fugard's *My Children! My Africa!* opens this week. It follows *On Approval*, which is always going to be popular, and so is a bit of a risk for us, more political than our audiences may consider they are used to. But playing safe isn't playing fair."

"Of course we'd like to have the money to pay our actors more than virtually the Equity minimum; we'd like to tour more, and we'd certainly like to build a studio theatre that could take small-scale shows to village halls."

There is complaint in the substance of her remarks but none in her tone of voice, which is calm,

relaxed and genuinely persuasive. She is evidently a dab hand at twisting arms. "It is something one does have to do. But really, my talents lie in drawing people together for a particular thing to make a particular whole. That's what I enjoy doing."

The leafy setting of this waterside theatre is the loveliest in Britain. After my first visit there I wrote that on a day hot enough to fry eggs on the Shaftesbury Avenue pavement, this rural hideaway felt like paradise. Long may it thrive there.

● *My Children! My Africa!* opens at the Watermill tonight, 7.30pm. (Telephone 0635 46044)

ROCK REVIEWS

Still carrying the torch

Sade
Albert Hall



Sade: as smooth, sexy and seductive as ever

She was struggling against a sound system that muffled her voice to the point where it sounded, at times, as though she was singing through a fisherman's sock. Yet Sade's return to the London stage was never short of intriguing and, in parts, genuinely captivating.

Beautiful in a white sequined belly dancer's costume, she sang with the slow-burning sophistication that has become her trademark. Her latest album, *Love Deluxe*, has been widely received in Britain, but she performed live with a confidence and exuberance she has seldom displayed before.

As she sashayed happily in front of her black-suited band, she bore scant resemblance to the shy singer who appeared on the London club circuit ten years and 22 million album sales ago.

Sade's recent sojourn in Spain seems to have left an impression on her body language. Movements that owed as much to flamenco dancers and matadors as they did to hip-swivelling night-club groovers informed many of her casual on-stage manoeuvres. At one point she even engaged in a

brief round of shadow boxing with Leroy Osbourne, her impressive backing vocalist. The mood created in combination with the late-night lighting and Stuart Mathewman's lonesome saxophone was gently and subtly sexual.

Unusually, most of Sade's immediately recognisable songs were slickly dealt with in the first half of the set. Her

mid-1980s hits — "The Sweetest Taboo", "Smooth Operator" and "Your Love is King" — were faithfully dispatched to an affectionate, albeit muted audience. Bass-player Paul Spencer Denman acted as a musical rudder to the accomplished eight-piece band. Musical understatement and sensitivity were paramount to a sound that rarely broke out of smooch-mode.

But this show hinged entirely on Sade's singing voice: a lightly smoked, slightly serrated line that carried her tales of love, trust, betrayal and longing with disarming and often moving conviction. It is not a classically precise instrument and she rarely lets it off the leash, but few voices in contemporary soul mesh as magically with the music as hers.

The show climaxed with an uncharacteristically full-throated rendition of "Is It a Crime", all horns, percussion and shrieked vocals. The two encores seemed an almost superfluous addition to an evening's entertainment that, despite the Albert Hall's acoustic shortcomings, was a cool triumph.

ADRIAN DEEVOY

Daze of future past

Ozric Tentacles
Forum, NW5

Ozric Tentacles have been schlepping around the alternative festival/underground circuit since 1983, when they began life with an inaugural jam session in the shadow of Stonehenge.

They have their own recording studio in Somerset, and have quietly prospered without any mainstream media exposure, releasing at least six "official" albums and too many unofficial ones to count. But their cult popularity finally gained critical mass when their new album, *Jurassic Shift*, crashed into the Gallup chart at No 11 last month.

With their cottage industry origins and downish, retro-hippy sense of humour — the band's name was chosen because they thought it sounded like an imaginary breakfast cereal — Ozric Tentacles may give an initial impression of being just another heretically disorganised, travelling musicians' collective.

But nothing could be further from the reality of their live show, which was a rugged and fiercely disciplined display of instrumen-

tal firepower accompanied by a dazzling, computerised lightshow. Musically they have formulated an updated strand of progressive rock for the rave generation, combining all the quirky melodrama and advanced musicianship of 1970s fusion with the spacey, dancefloor nirvana of the Nineties.

Fronted by Jumping John Egan, the aptly named flautist, and powered by the pincer-style attack of guitarist Ed Wynne and keyboard player Joie Hinton, the foundations of the band's tightly scripted instrumental music evokes memories of Gong, early Genesis, Led Zeppelin and even Jethro Tull (that

flute, of course). But along with the fractured heavy funk riffing of "Viva Voom" and the furiously fiddly guitar soloing of "Sunhair" there were also generous lashings of ravey, flying-saucer sound effects and hippy synthesizer textures, all swathed in dank layers of echo.

The musicians were pretty well invisible behind the intricate glare of the lightshow, which was a combination of ornate mosaic backdrops, black hole "infinity" effects (like the old credits for *Doctor Who*), and stabbing strobes.

The club, which has been splendidly refurbished since its days as the Town & Country, at times resembled a war zone, never more so than during the closing "Fengshui", a reggae-influenced number which ended with a cataclysmic overload of lights, sounds and special effects. The crowd, which had arrived in a state of mild torpor, by now seemed shell-shocked, but still eager for more. It was a trip that looks set to run and run.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Yes, he's a great pretender

The Chinese Wolf
Bush

Now and then, during David Ashton's enjoyably artful play, the Platters sob through "Only You". It's appropriate the play can be interpreted as an eccentric romance, where awkward boy discovers in prickly girl the one who can make this life seem right, the darkness bright. Indeed, this is the phrase that ends the comedy, with a pause before the "you", to allow a goldfish bowl to descend again from the ceiling while the boy, Max Fabiani, concludes the dream in which the fish has featured.

At the same time the play also charts his rite of passage, from dependence on his former opera-singing mother, who has departed on a bank holiday spree, into a contest with Billy Chorley, the local Mr Big. As embodied in Desmond Barrit, this villain is also physically massive. His lifelong curse has been his bulk. Fabiani's his hunched back.

Chorley wants the site of the Fabiani scrapyard for his money-making Palace of Fun, to which end he has already burnt down neighbouring properties, including the newspaper's that won an award for not selling glue. That joke flourishes in an example of the throwaway wit Ashton liberally supplies, in unexpected turns of plot as well as twists of dialogue.

In his previous play, *A Bright Light Shining*, also commissioned by the Bush, Ashton created a Lakeside

visionary who lost belief in the vision she had seen although, it transpired, the vision had been there. A curious feature of that play's tone was the suggestion that the supernatural is real — and yet how peculiar, how nervously comical, that it should be.

The Chinese wolf is a supernatural monster imagined by Fabiani in one of the many stories he tells Ruby, the young Falkirk lesbian who strips engines in the yard. But his imagination has the power to create physical reality, and an evil light beyond the corrugated-iron walls. Likewise, it is through his imagination that Fabiani hits on the one story that could destroy Chorley.

Romance, rite of passage and the power of imagination give a sturdy shape to Ashton's play. He has not found the way to make the murder threats work — they are too jokey for reality, too flabby for ritual — but elsewhere he writes the most lively and sparkling dialogue. Dominic Dromgoole's direction is as sinewy as the writing, shifting the mood from pain to parody, reverie to rampage.

The speaking parts are excellently played: Barrit finds a sweet sadness in his last moments; Maureen Beattie's tough little lesbian snaps abuse like a firecracker, and



Love hurts: Barrit, Vibert and Ford in *The Chinese Wolf*

Julia Ford is teasingly inviting as the girl everyone fancies. But the thrust of the evening is maintained by Fabiani, on stage almost throughout and wonderfully portrayed by Roman Vibert. Covering yet alert, one moment preoccu-

pied by fears, the next capering like some mad mix-up of Quasimodo and Frankie Howard, his is a comic performance packed with the contrary impulses of real life.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Requiem for a lightweight

Buchanan
Traverse, Edinburgh

career is portrayed at a pace as nifty as his celebrated dancing action.

Perhaps, like the boxer's style, it is too gentlemanly. As Roberto Duran, his final opponent, put it: "He fights clean and expects the world to fight clean ... an old-fashioned attitude."

In truth, we could do with a little more grit in the personal aspects of the story: his failed marriage, the decline into illegal fights, the failure of his hotel and business interests, the eventual dole — all are noted briefly, almost blandly.

In Ian Brown's production Buchanan's rise and fall unfold fleetly in the round — or rather square, since the Traverse hosts a central boxing ring where the champ's

control refused to recognise his first world title and the returning champion was ignored by local dignitaries busy hosting a drinks party for opera singers at the Festival ("City fathers!" snorted a contemptuous member of the audience). But the play could delve more deeply into the anger that provoked Buchanan into a premature resignation and rejection of the Lonsdale Belt.

An early workmate acts as analyst, trying to explain the joys of love and sex to the austere young fighter, later noting the Oedipal parallels in all great boxers and the oblivion that awaits fallen heroes. More intriguing are the glimpses of what both chauvinism and big money can do to sportsmanship: the dirty tricks, physical assaults and coercion of the latin countries;

the armed guards and hotel room temptresses of America. The big fight sequences avoid monotony, sometimes in slow motion, sometimes displaying punchbags lowered on to the stage, sometimes with each blow underlined on electronic drums (music: John Irvine).

Paul Samson, looking uncannily like the champion, right down to the springy swagger, heads a blessedly unactorish cast of what look like real people, from Boyd Clark as the harassed and finally exasperated Eddy Thomas, Buchanan's manager, to Edward Brittain as the ruthless street animal Duran.

The play succeeds as a communal cheer for an under-rated hero, a sporting innocent who, as a sympathetic American commentator put it, was "perhaps fighting in an obsolete tradition". Hugely enjoyable even to a boxing illiterate such as myself, the play visits the Glasgow Mayfest later this month.

MARTIN HOYLE

ARTS BRIEFING

Prized business

LORD Sainsbury, the best-known of British arts patrons, last night received the Goodman Award "for outstanding achievement in the encouragement of business support of the arts". The award came from the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, as does the complementary Garret Award for "encouraging business support in a professional capacity". That went to Ruth McKenzie, executive director of the Nottingham Playhouse. She has lifted the theatre's annual sponsorship from £2,000 to £117,800 in three years.

Both winners received £10,000 to give to an arts organisation of their choice. Lord Sainsbury nominated the Benesh Institute, a dance study centre; McKenzie chose the Playhouse itself.

● "THERE is plenty of blasphemy, perversion, and other material taboo until yesterday, to alarm unwary customers. But the unmistakable purpose of the show is to send up a great hymn to freedom and love; and for once the message really comes across." That was how *The Times* greeted the musical *Hair* when it first appeared on the London stage, 25 years ago. Now, *Hair* is coming back: Michael Bogdanov mounts an Old Vic production this September. Whether he can persuade the Princess Royal to join the dancing on stage, as she memorably did in 1969, is anybody's guess.

Last chance ...

JUDITH Thompson's *Lion in the Streets* at Hampstead (071-722 9301, to Saturday) tells of a raped girl's ghost prowling the streets and dinner parties of Toronto to locate her killer. The events she witnesses are atrocious and painful when not veering, as inevitably did, into black farce. Yet the play's power is undeniable.

The Dundee United striker, **Duncan Ferguson**, is likely to be given a leading role in the two matches against Estonia. Ferguson is back in full train-

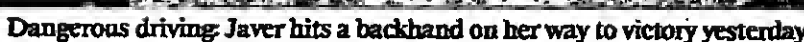
Roxburgh said: "I have heard during the last ten days talk of a crisis in Scottish

played in the worst of weather at an intense level twice a week. Every time we have an international match it is an agony. I do not know what I am going to have to deal with next. We average six or seven call-offs per match."

☐ Heart of Midlothian have

□ **Head of** **Michigan** **have**
promoted Sandy Clark, the
reserve team coach, to fill the
managerial vacancy created
by the dismissal of Joe Jordan
last week.

In the late afternoon doubles rubber, Julie Salmon stepped into the breach and, with Wood, served out a 6-1, 3-3 victory against the tiring Goy and Kremer to complete



starts at the weekend. Bates, the British No 1, will team up with John Lloyd for the David Lloyd Racquet Centre at Raynes Park, who begin their campaign at home in Millfield

In the women's league, Amanda Grunfeld, ranked third, has joined Clearview (Essex). Shirli-Anne Siddall

RESULTS: Pool C: Great Britain to Luxembourg 3-0 (M Javer to A Kramer, 6-4, 8-4; C Wood to C Goy, 6-2, 6-1; Wood and J Salmon to Kramer and Goy, 8-1, 6-3); Russia to Ukraine 3-0. Pool E: Slovenia to Netherlands 3-0 (Kortbeek to Tuijthof, 2-1).

Rutherford felt differences of interpretation, particularly in the tackle law, required the existence of a training panel for referees run by the International Rugby Football Board.

Stuart Potter, the Leicester centre, will replace Damian Hopley on the England tour to Canada this month if Hopley fails a fitness test on a damaged calf muscle. The party leaves on Sunday.

2010 OFFLINE
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TUESDAY MAY 11 1993

Row between Border and McDermott overshadows final day

Australians spin out fifth win

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TAUNTON (final day of three): Australians beat Somerset by 35 runs

AN ABBREVIATED game and a contrived target did not detract from the entertainment value yesterday. The Australians won an engrossing contest with six overs to spare, eight wickets were shared by the two spin bowlers and, to prove there was nothing frivolous about the occasion, an audible spat occurred between their captain and strike bowler.

The touring team's record now reads, played five, won five, and the positive approach adopted here paid a handsome complement to the effects of the Tetley Bitter sponsorship. Money talks, like it or not, and the Australians now have an eye on the £50,000 jackpot for winning ten first-class games against the counties.

Results like this, achieved

Essex, the county champions, lost their first match of the season yesterday, going down to Yorkshire at Chelmsford by 239 runs. Resuming on 98 for one in pursuit of 455, they lost seven wickets before lunch and were all out for 215. Paul Jarvis, the acting Yorkshire captain, took four wickets for 76 runs, including those of Gooch, Salim Malik and Hussain in the space of 15 balls. Craig White took three for nine.

Report, page 38

from an unpromising position, work wonders for morale in the early weeks of a tour and the manner of victory will certainly figure far higher in the Australians' priorities than an overblown exchange of opinions between Allan Border and Craig McDermott.

This flashpoint followed an unhappy new-ball spell by McDermott from the old pavilion end. His first over cost 14 runs and contained three no-balls and he was clearly struggling to recapture the rhythm he had shown from the other end on Sunday.

After three overs, Border trotted across towards McDermott, presumably to discuss whether he should switch ends. The frustrated bowler continued to walk away, which understandably annoyed his captain. What happened next was indiscreet at worst, commonplace at best.

Border's language was abrupt and immoderate, but it

was the type of altercation that occurs several times a day, especially between a combustible captain and an overheated fast bowler.

It would probably have gone no further but for the fact that it took place close to the boundary, within range of the effects microphones of Australia's Channel Seven TV. They picked up Border issuing an empty threat to put McDermott "on the next plane home", a comment that has now been broadcast around Australia.

Long before the end of the day, the two protagonists were enjoying a joke together and they, like the rest of their team, will doubtless be flabbergasted that, through the mixed blessings of modern technology, such a triviality should overshadow a game played in impeccable spirit throughout.

Border had the option of trying to impose the follow-on when play resumed but, after considering the position overnight, he came to an arrangement with his opposite number, Chris Tavare, involving two declarations and an agreed target.

The Australian openers put on 40 but both were fortunate to survive an impressive burst from Andy Caddick, who believed he had Taylor caught behind by Burns and certainly had Slater dropped by the same player. Bob Cotton, Somerset's coach, has asked Keith Fletcher, the England manager, to spare Caddick the one-day internationals, keeping him fresh for the Ashes series. He is likely to be disappointed.

Mark Lathwell will not feature in the Texaco Trophy party, however, and has not been at his best in this match. Yesterday, his footwork failed him and he managed 15 before driving unconvincingly against an outswinger from Hughes.

Set to score 321 from what became 84 overs, Somerset sighted their first win over the Australians since 1977 after stands of 98 and 52 for the next two wickets. They were up with the required rate and immeasurably helped by the modest threat posed by both McDermott and Hughes. Both are to play again at Hove on Thursday and, on this evidence, they need to.

More encouragement for the Australians came in the form of their slow bowlers. Tim May has been here before, but he looks a greatly improved off-spinner now. As for Shane Warne, any 23-



Border incident: the Australian captain delivers a pithy lecture to McDermott yesterday

year-old who has already won three Test Matches commands respect and he can now add Somerset to the list of teams bemused, bothered and bewildered by his wrist-spin varieties.

Warne suffered heavy punishment from Graeme Hick at Worcester last week, when the short boundaries, a misguided line and a batsman in inspired form conspired against him. He has been a different proposition at Taunton, where the

ball turned enough to encourage him through his full repertoire, and innings figures of four for 77 did not flatter him at all.

The crucial wicket was that of Tavare, caught at slip off the perfect leg-break delivered from round the wicket. Andy Hayhurst's correct and resolute 89 ended when Warne bowled him round his legs and Somerset, laudably continuing the pursuit, were spun to their fate.

AUSTRALIANS: First innings 431 (M. J. Slater 122, M. E. Waugh 68, A. N. Border 54, A. P. Taylor 4 for 86)	
Second innings	
M. A. Taylor not out	18
M. J. Slater not out	12
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 1)	3
Total (two wickets)	40
SOMERSET: First innings 151 for 4 (M. J. Lathwell 62, B. Cotton 10-2-28, S. Hughes 12-2-24, M. E. Waugh 6-0-17-0, May 10-2-23; Warne 6-3-6-1)	
Second innings	
A. N. Hayhurst 6	89
A. N. Lathwell 6	23
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 1)	
Total	
285	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-105, 3-107, 4-215, 5-220, 6-230, 7-233, 8-234, 9-234	
BOWLING: McDermott 14-0-72-0; Hughes 11-0-55-1; M. E. Waugh 1-0-9-0; May 23-6-75-4; Warne 28-4-77-4	
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 1)	
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Total	
285	

Old lags may be better bet than young lions

By ALAN LEE



Thorpe: shotmaker

PITY the England selectors. The men responsible for any amount of public fuss last winter now find themselves in an impossible position as they meet this evening to pick their first England party of the summer.

The reason is that the need to restructure the team, candidly admitted by the chairman, Ted Dexter, conflicts with an itinerary in which three one-day internationals precede an Ashes series.

Doubtless there are those who prefer the huff and puff of the limited-overs games to the real thing. But the circumstances in which England's selectors find themselves reinforce the case for playing the Texaco Trophy at the end of the summer, when it can have no effect on thinking for the five-day matches.

As it is, the selectors face a choice

between old lags and young lions, and they will be criticised whatever they do.

The party of 13, to be named tomorrow, need bear little resemblance to the squad for the first Test next month. Too much, though, is often read into performances in the Texaco Trophy, which can work both against a potential Test player and in favour of the bits-and-pieces man.

Mark Lathwell, at 21 a batsman of great potential, might be chosen, fail twice and suffer either rejection or more pressure in the Test series. Conversely, Derek Pringle could be included, produce his usual solid one-day form and, as has happened in the past, be retained on false pretences.

The shame and anger over the Indian tour means the public will dissect this first selection. Dexter and his panel not only need to get it right but also to clarify whatever strategy

they settle on. This is not the moment for revolution. The one-day games should be treated as separate and players picked who are accomplished at the art. Exposing youngsters who may well have a significant part to play in the Test series, can be counter-productive.

Seven names will be written down automatically, five of them batsmen. This leaves only two batting places to fill and, setting aside Lathwell for later duties, they should come from Mark Ramprakash, Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe. All are shotmakers, all have plenty of representative experience and, importantly, all are fine fielders.

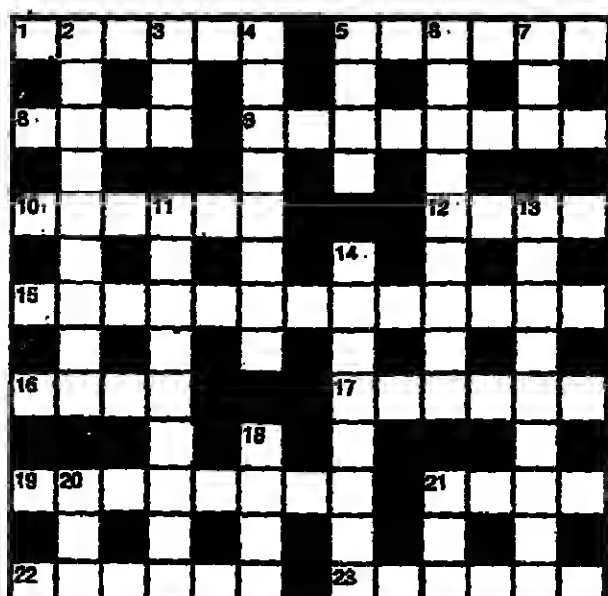
The bowling will take longer. Much longer. Chris Lewis and Paul Jarvis are linked in and it is a case of perming four from 17 or 18 to complete the squad.

Arguments can be made for any

number. Andy Caddick and Mark Lathwell might easily be included on their undoubted credentials for the Ashes Tests, but it makes sense to keep their powder dry for the occasions that matter. Tim Munton's accuracy and Dominic Cork's versatility fit the bill.

There is room for one old hand and it might as well be Ian Botham, who is as good a one-day bowler as either Pringle or Dermot Reeve and a far better batsman. The spin place is likely to go to someone safe and unexciting — John Emburey or Richard Illingworth — but on the premise that slow bowling does win one-day games, how much better it would be to include either Phil Tufnell or Ian Salisbury.

My 13 would be: Gooch, Stewart, Smith, Hick, Fairbrother, Ramprakash, Thorpe, Lewis, Cork, Botham, Munton, Jarvis, Salisbury.



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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3093

ACROSS

- 1 Car fuel (6)
- 5 Letter preparer (6)
- 8 Retain (4)
- 9 Sunset (8)
- 10 Totally amazed (6)
- 12 Body swelling (4)
- 15 Outside normal bounds (6,3,4)
- 16 Small biter (4)
- 17 Cold polar mass (6)
- 19 Pests (6)
- 21 Ache (4)
- 22 Mean (6)
- 23 Cabling (6)

DOWN

- 2 Continually in foliage (9)
- 3 Agent (3)
- 4 Scope for action (8)
- 5 Counterpart (4)
- 6 Conduct standard (9)
- 7 Fifth music note (3)
- 11 Vote face (5,4)
- 13 Rescue (9)
- 14 Heavy tree feller (8)
- 18 Quail flock (4)
- 20 Wheel groove (3)
- 21 Accepted standard (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3092

ACROSS: 1 Nonconformist; 8 Lundy; 9 Catwalk; 10 Ski; 11 Oasis; 12 Nascent; 14 Strays; 16 Sparse; 20 Ostrich; 23 Ascot; 24 Rams; 25 Unifier; 26 Tiana; 27 Night watchman.

DOWN: 1 Nelson's column; 2 Non user; 3 Odyssey; 4 Facing; 5 Rines; 6 Inane; 7 Take the strain; 13 CIA; 15 Ayr; 17 Plastic; 18 Reclaim; 19 Sherpa; 21 Thing; 22 Idiot.

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is a variation from the game Khalifman — Asker, USSR 1984. With the aid of a sacrifice, white opened up the black king and delivered a quick mate. Can you see how this was achieved?

Solution on page 36

Championship Chess, page 7

By PHILIP HOWARD

POETICALS

NORMAN'S WOE

a. Requin at Semac

b. A reef

c. Guernsey fishermen

SKEELY SKIPPER

a. A rare butterfly

b. Scottish marbles champion

c. A capable captain

OLD SUPERS

a. An Islay single malt

b. Thackeray's name for Shakespeare

c. A battleship

REKETER

a. Modern name for Viennese

b. The Master of Exeter College, Oxford

c. A curly-coated rabbit

Answers on page 36

England place health above success

By RICHARD EATON

ENGLAND will put health before sporting ambition by using bats inferior to those of the 86 other nations in the world table tennis championships starting in Gothenburg today.

The council of the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) has decided that the risks of cancer, brain damage and death from prolonged exposure to toxic substances are too great to allow its players to use "fast" glues.

Originally employed merely to attach the rubber face to the wooden blade, these are now known to increase the ball's speed off the bat by up to 20 per cent.

That can be a decisive advantage and, according to Donald Parker, the England manager, "it will be like competing at Wimbledon with a wooden racket" for some of his players.

The national council has taken a pioneering stance because it believes the health dangers are too great. Alan Ransome, chairman of the association, said:

However, the International Table Tennis Federation disagrees. Every other country's players will be allowed to select from glues considered safe by the federation.

Carl Prens, the national champion, who uses fast glue on one side of his bat, and the former national champion, Alan Cooke, and Fiona Mommessin, feel the ETTA council has shot its team in the foot.

France and Scotland have adopted similar stances but have allowed dispensation for this event. When Parker appealed to the council to do likewise, he was turned down.

It is surprising that the council has failed to show flexibility for just one event, given that its players have been using these substances for years. So upset is Desmond Douglas, the 11-times former English champion, that he has now refused to act as reserve in case of injury.

"It's ridiculous scare-mongering," Douglas said. "Decisions involving the livelihood of professionals should not be made by amateur councillors who only represent the game from the counties. They should be taken by the management committee."

Barnet to face enquiry about payments

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE problems of Barnet Football Club continue. Despite being promoted from the third division, it will today face a Football League enquiry in London into an alleged breach of regulations "relating to a payment to a player".

A three-man board of directors' commission will interview representatives of the club, which has been in turmoil throughout the season, during which its chairman, Stan Flashman, has resigned and its long-serving manager, Barry Fry, has left the club.

A Football League spokesman yesterday declined to say whether the alleged breach occurred during Flashman's tenure as chairman. The club faces at best a reprimand or more likely a fine from the commission. There has to be a serious breach of regulations for the club to be deducted points.

When the new board of directors took over from Flashman on March 31, it had a mounting series of debts. But exactly how much money the club owed, and also why it owed the money, few people have seemed to know, and those who may have known have not been prepared to talk.

However, the money certainly included £50,000, which the club was fined by the league last November for failing to keep proper records and for irregular payments to players.

Until the new board was appointed, many of the players had suffered shortfalls in their wages or their money was paid late.

When Flashman resigned, he cited ill-health and said he would dispose of his shares. He dismissed Fry for the seventh time but did not have time to reinstate him before leaving himself.

Robert Woolson, the new chairman and a chartered accountant, was joined on the new Barnet board by Malcolm Ozin, an estate agent, and Andrew Needham, a solicitor.

The board's first action was to reappoint Fry but he left the club the next day for Southend.

Fry said at the time: "I was not happy with the new set-up. They are just plastering over the old cracks."

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